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ADVENTURES INTO THE

UNKNOWN

NO 94
MARCH

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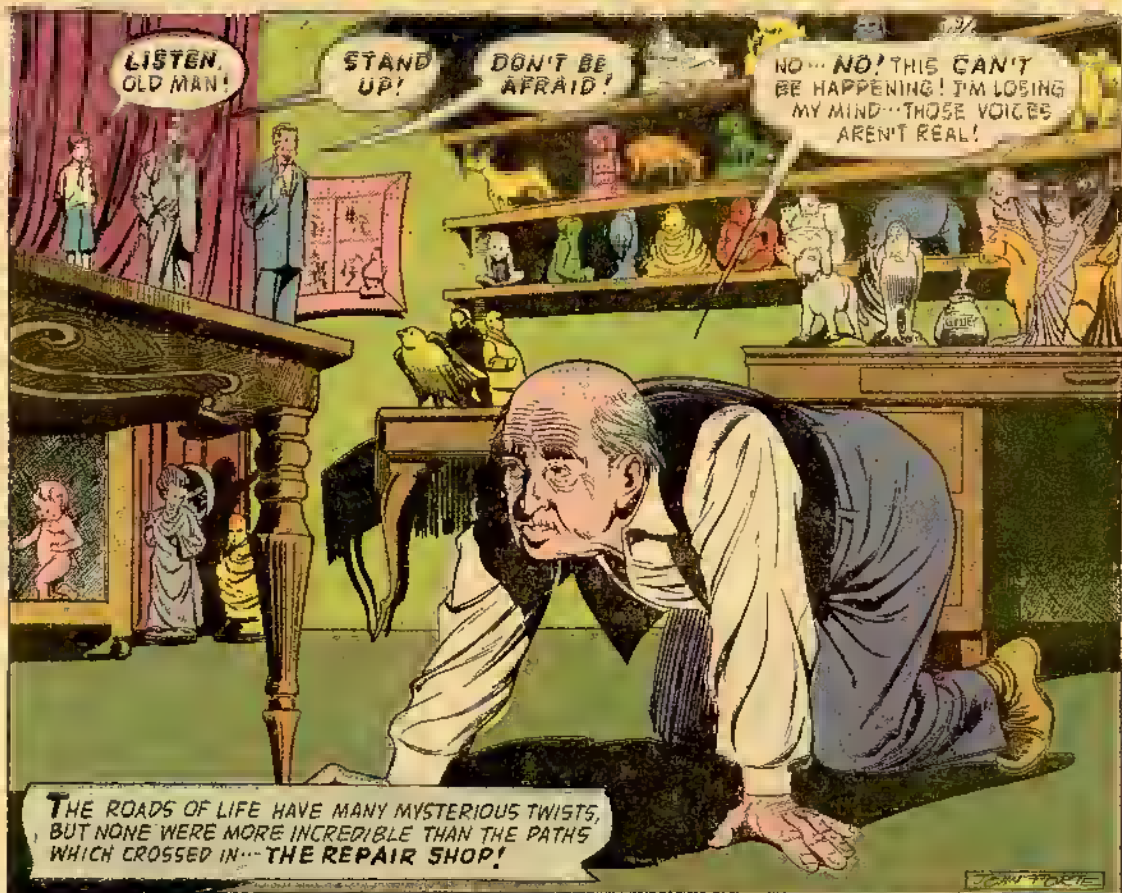
HOLY SMOKE!
THE INJURED MAY
AND DOLL IDENTICAL
BOTH LYING THERE
THAT WAY

What STRANGE THING
HAD HAPPENED
WITHIN THIS DUSTY
CHAMBER? FOR THE
SURPRISING STORY,
READ—
"THE REPAIR
SHOP!"



MORE THAN BROKEN FIGURINES CAN BE PUT TOGETHER IN...

The REPAIR SHOP!



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HE SLEPT IN A SMALL, DUSTY ROOM IN BACK OF THE SHOP...

TIME WAS WHEN THE FIGURINES WERE ALL THE COMPANIONS I NEEDED---BUT NO MORE! I'VE WASTED MY LIFE---AND YET, THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN **DIFFERENT!** BUT---WHY COMPLAIN ABOUT THINGS THAT CAN'T BE HELPED?



FOR YEARS HE'D LIVED IN DREAMS---RICH, GOLDEN DAY-DREAMS IN WHICH HE PLAYED MAGNIFICENT ROLES---BUT THEY NO LONGER SATISFIED HIM...

CAN'T EVEN GET ANY FUN OUT OF MAKE-BELIEVE ANY MORE! BUT IT WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER---I'M AN OLD MAN...



THAT DAY HE HAD A VERY DISTINGUISHED CUSTOMER...

A TABLE WAS ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED OVER IN MY HOME, BREAKING THESE THREE FIGURINES OF A BOY, A YOUNG MAN AND AN OLDER MAN! I'M FOND OF THEIR WONDERFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP---COULD THEY BE REPAIRED?

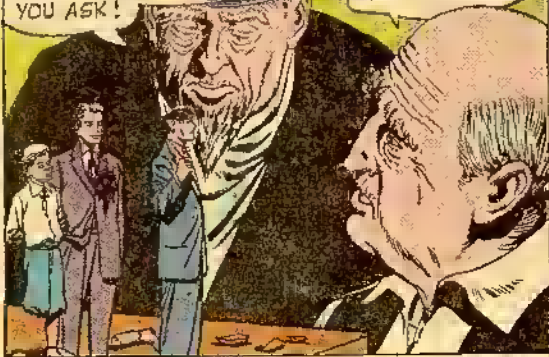
MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK AT THEM?



THE MAN LOOKED STRANGELY FAMILIAR TO SLOANE! WHERE HAD HE SEEN HIM BEFORE---? WHEN HE QUESTIONED HIM...

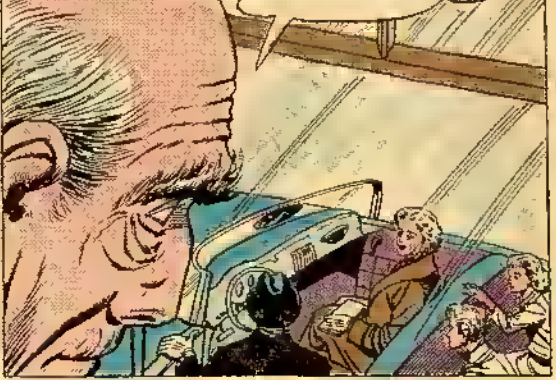
I'M A WELL-KNOWN PAINTER! BUT THE FIGURINES---I'VE BROUGHT ALONG THE BROKEN PARTS! I'LL PAY ANYTHING YOU ASK!

I'LL BE ABLE TO FIX THEM, ALL RIGHT---SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A FEW DAYS!



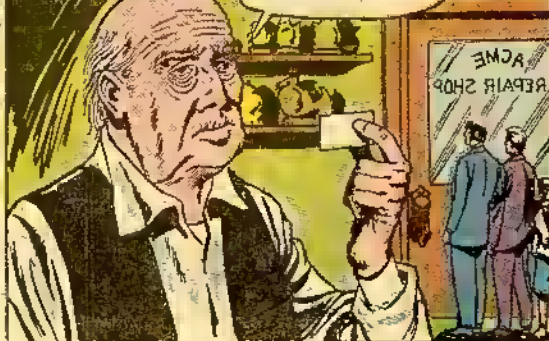
SLOANE WATCHED THE CUSTOMER STRIDE VIGOROUSLY OUT OF THE SHOP...

HIS WIFE AND GRANDCHILDREN, PROBABLY---WONDER WHERE I SAW HIM BEFORE? HE'S GOT EVERYTHING---STRENGTH, MONEY, FAMILY... **HOW I ENVY HIM!**



AS THE CAR SPED AWAY, SLOANE LIMPED BACK TO HIS WORK TABLE, PICKED UP AN ADDRESS CARD LEFT BEHIND...

WELL, I'LL BE...! THAT PAINTER'S NAME WAS **SLOANE** TOO! I---I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I LIKED HIM AN AWFUL LOT! I'LL DO AN ESPECIALLY GOOD JOB FOR HIM!



HE PICKED UP THE FIGURE OF THE BOY FIRST! FIXING THE BROKEN LEG PROVED SIMPLE...

JUST A LITTLE GLUE'S ALL THAT'S NEEDED! GOOD THING HE COLLECTED THE SHATTERED PARTS! I'LL JUST WAIT FOR IT TO DRY...



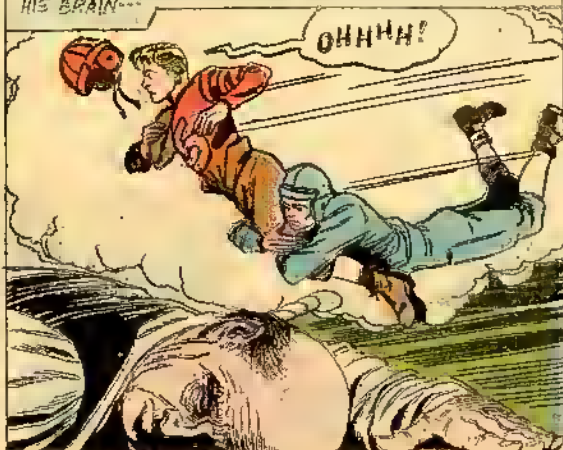
AS THE GLUE DRIED AND HARDENED QUICKLY, SUDDENLY...

MY LEG... THAT SHARP, STABBING PAIN!
OH!!!



EVERYTHING SWAM VIOLENTLY BEFORE HIS EYES! BY THE TIME HE HIT THE FLOOR, HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS, AND YET... OLD MEMORIES DRIFTED FROM THE DEPTHS OF HIS BRAIN...

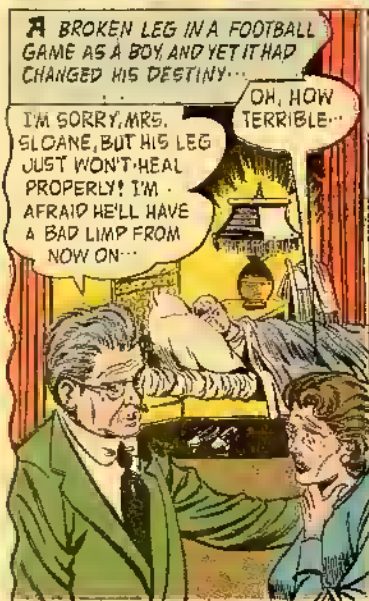
OH!!!



A BROKEN LEG IN A FOOTBALL GAME AS A BOY, AND YET IT HAD CHANGED HIS DESTINY...

OH, HOW TERRIBLE...

I'M SORRY, MRS. SLOANE, BUT HIS LEG JUST WON'T HEAL PROPERLY! I'M AFRAID HE'LL HAVE A BAD LIMP FROM NOW ON...



IT WAS ONE OF THOSE FREAK THINGS BEYOND MEDICAL HELP, AND IT LEFT THE BOY EMBITTERED AND LONELY...

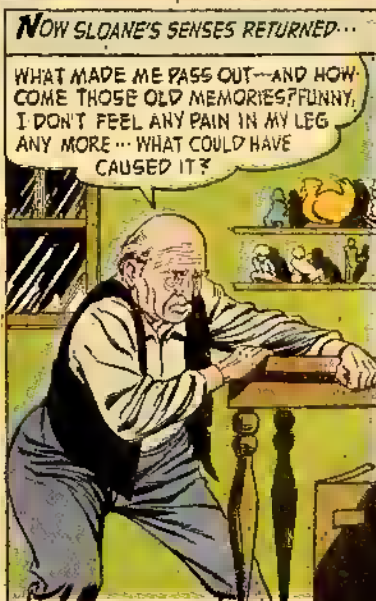
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

WHAT FOR? I... I CAN'T DO THE THINGS THEY CAN ANY LONGER! I'D RATHER STAY HERE!



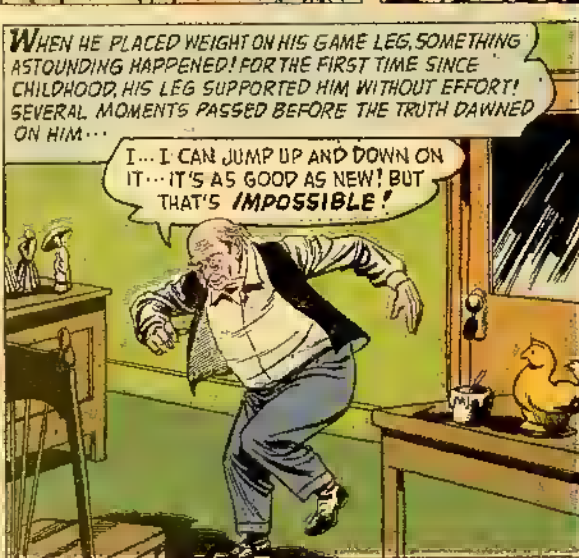
NOW SLOANE'S SENSES RETURNED...

WHAT MADE ME PASS OUT--AND HOW COME THOSE OLD MEMORIES? FUNNY, I DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN IN MY LEG ANY MORE... WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?



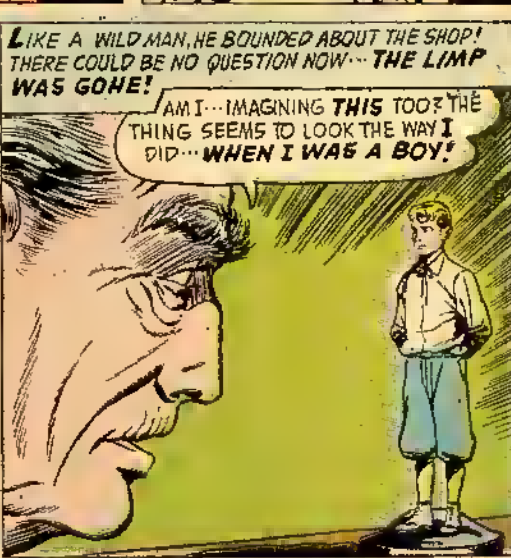
WHEN HE PLACED WEIGHT ON HIS GAME LEG, SOMETHING ASTOUNDING HAPPENED! FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CHILDHOOD, HIS LEG SUPPORTED HIM WITHOUT EFFORT! SEVERAL MOMENTS PASSED BEFORE THE TRUTH DAWNED ON HIM...

I... I CAN JUMP UP AND DOWN ON IT... IT'S AS GOOD AS NEW! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

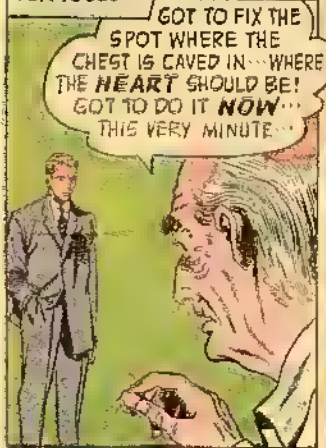


LIKE A WILD MAN, HE BOUNDED ABOUT THE SHOP! THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION NOW... THE LIMP WAS GONE!

AM I... IMAGINING THIS TOO? THE THING SEEMS TO LOOK THE WAY I DID... WHEN I WAS A BOY!



NOW HIS GAZE SHIFTED TO THE FIGURINE OF THE YOUNG MAN AND WAS INSTANTLY HELD THERE... AS IF HYPNOTICALLY! LIKE A ROBOT HIS HANDS REACHED FOR TOOLS...



GOT TO FIX THE SPOT WHERE THE CHEST IS CAVED IN... WHERE THE HEART SHOULD BE! GOT TO DO IT NOW... THIS VERY MINUTE...

HE SEEMED TO HAVE NO WILL OF HIS OWN AS HIS SKILLED HANDS WORKED SWIFTLY! THEN, STRANGELY, A TRANCE-LIKE STATE SWEEPED OVER HIM...



MEMORIES... OLD MEMORIES... SWEEPING BACK AGAIN! THE GIRL I LOVED... I CAN SEE HER NOW, JUST AS SHE WAS...

SOMETIMES YOU... YOU MAKE ME SO MAD! WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT I LOVE YOU... WHY?

YOU... YOU JUST PITY ME! A STRONG, LOVELY GIRL LIKE YOU... AND ME JUST A CRIPPLE...



DON'T CALL YOURSELF THAT! OH, PLEASE, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! YOU'RE ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME!

YOU'RE JUST BEING... KIND! ANYWAY, I WON'T RUIN YOUR LIFE! WE... WE'D BETTER NOT SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE...



YES, HE REMEMBERED THE WHOLE PAINFUL INCIDENT VIVIDLY, AND WHEN THE TRANCE-LIKE STATE ENDED...

MAYBE I WAS WRONG... MAYBE SHE REALLY DID LOVE ME! OH, WHAT A FOOL I WAS! HOW DIFFERENT EVERYTHING WOULD'VE BEEN IF I HADN'T BEEN SO EMBITTERED, IF ONLY I'D TRUSTED HER LOVE!



I... I CAN SEE IT ALL SO CLEARLY NOW! THIS LONELY LIFE I LEAD... FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZE THAT I BROUGHT IT ON MYSELF!



THE EYES OF THE THIRD FIGURINE... THE MATURE MAN NOW RIVETED HIS ATTENTION! ONCE AGAIN, HE SEEMED TO HAVE NO WILL OF HIS OWN...

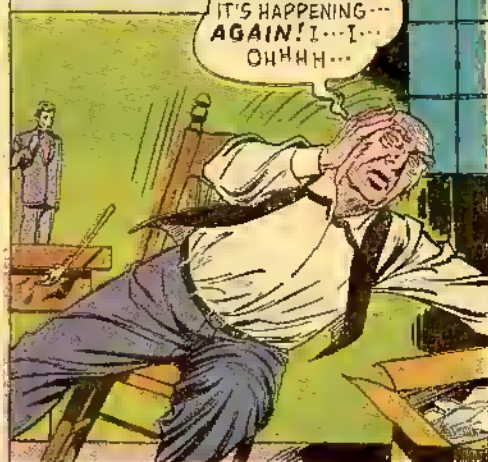
A LITTLE GLUE... AND THEN REPLACE THE BROKEN HEAD PART... WHERE THE TOP OF THE BRAIN WOULD BE! THE THING SEEMS TO BE TELLING ME WHAT TO DO, FORCING ME...



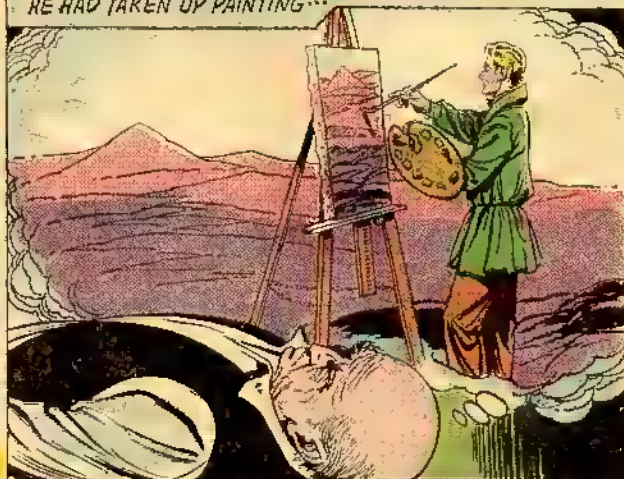
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THE INSTANT THE WORK WAS DONE, HIS SENSES REELED...

IT'S HAPPENING...
AGAIN! I... I...
OH HHH...



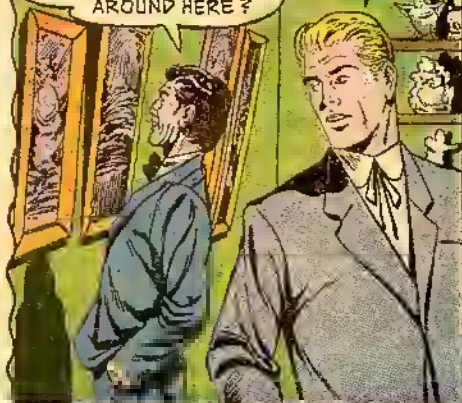
HE REMEMBERED BACK... BACK TO HOW, IN HIS LONELINESS, HE HAD TAKEN UP PAINTING...



HE'D OPENED A REPAIR SHOP TO EARN A LIVING, BUT ALL HIS SPARE TIME WAS SPENT PAINTING! A FRIEND HAD ADMIRED HIS WORK...

HOLY COW, YOU'VE GOT TALENT... YOU MIGHT EVEN BE A **GENIUS**! WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME AROUND HERE?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?



ARE YOU **SERIOUS**? YOU MAY HAVE IT IN YOU TO MAKE A BIG REPUTATION! THINK OF THE MONEY, THE FAME!

WHAT GOOD'S ALL THAT... TO A **CRIPPLE**?



THAT NIGHT, HE BURNED ALL HIS WORK...

IT ONLY **HURTS** ME NOW TO LOOK AT MY PICTURES! SUPPOSE I **WAS** FAMOUS... IT'D ONLY MAKE ME MORE UNHAPPY, KNOWING THAT TRUE LOVE CAN NEVER BE MINE, THAT I COULD NEVER PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE THINGS THAT'D COME MY WAY AS A CELEBRITY! BURN... GO AHEAD... **BURN!**



AND SO SLOANE DEVOTED HIMSELF COMPLETELY TO HIS WORK IN THE REPAIR SHOP, AND THE MEANINGLESS YEARS CREEPT SLOWLY BY...

EVERY DAY'S JUST LIKE THE ONE BEFORE, AND THE ONE TO COME! I WAS DEALT A BAD HAND BY LIFE, THAT'S ALL... NO USE THINKING ABOUT IT...



THE MEMORY IMAGES FADED AWAY, AND SLOANE RETURNED TO HIS SENSES! BUT NOW HE SAW HIS WHOLE LIFE FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE...

I BECAME A PRISONER BY MY OWN **ACTS**! I MIGHT'VE BEEN A FINE PAINTER, LED A GOOD LIFE... IF ONLY I'D TAKEN THINGS AS THEY CAME, INSTEAD OF DEMANDING **MORE**! LOVE WAS OFFERED ME, I WAS GIVEN **GENIUS**... AND I WASTED ALL MY GIFTS!

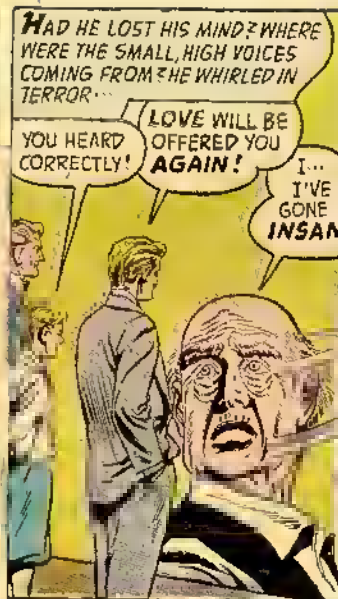




WASTED...ALL WASTED! IF ONLY I HAD IT TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN... THINGS'D BE SO DIFFERENT!

YES, AND YOU DESERVE...

...ANOTHER CHANCE!

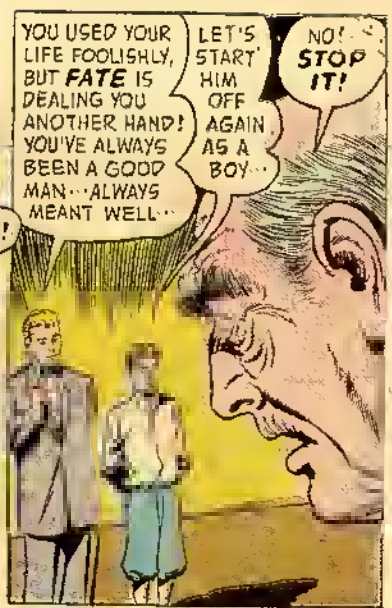


HAD HE LOST HIS MIND? WHERE WERE THE SMALL, HIGH VOICES COMING FROM? HE WHIRLED IN TERROR...

YOU HEARD CORRECTLY!

LOVE WILL BE OFFERED YOU AGAIN!

I... I'VE GONE INSANE!



YOU USED YOUR LIFE FOOLISHLY, BUT FATE IS DEALING YOU ANOTHER HAND! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD MAN... ALWAYS MEANT WELL...

LET'S START HIM OFF AGAIN AS A BOY...

NO! STOP IT!



HE THREW HIS HANDS TO HIS EARS TO SHUT OUT THE SOUNDS, AND THEN THE LIGHT OF A THOUSAND SUNS SEEMED TO EXPLODE...

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? I FEEL LIKE I'M... DISINTEGRATING!



HE REMEMBERED NOTHING AFTER THAT! HE HAD NO AWARENESS OF HAVING RETURNED TO CHILDHOOD...

OH HHHH!



YOU OKAY? DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU SO HARD!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT I BROKE MY LEG... BUT IT'S OKAY, THANK HEAVENS!



ANOTHER LIFE...LIVED ONCE MORE...BUT NOW IT WAS DIFFERENT! GLOANE GREW UP A HAPPY AND NORMAL MAN...FELL IN LOVE...

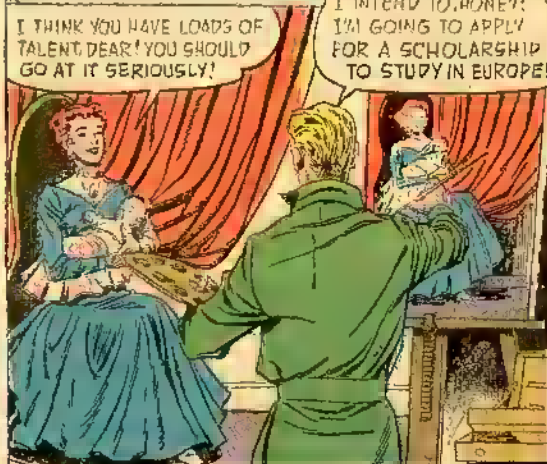
YOU MEAN EVERYTHING TO ME, DARLING! WILL YOU... MARRY ME?

DON'T YOU KNOW I WILL? SWEETHEART...

THEY WERE HAPPY, HAD A CHILD, AND WHEN THE YOUNG HUSBAND TOOK UP PAINTING...

I THINK YOU HAVE LOADS OF TALENT, DEAR! YOU SHOULD GO AT IT SERIOUSLY!

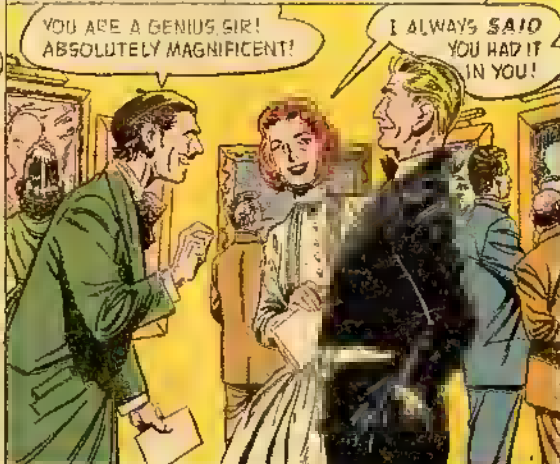
I INTEND TO, HONEY! I'M GOING TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN EUROPE!



HIS EARLY WORKS CAUSED A SENSATION, BRINGING WEALTH AND RENOWN! PARIS WAS AT HIS FEET...

YOU ARE A GENIUS GIR! ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT!

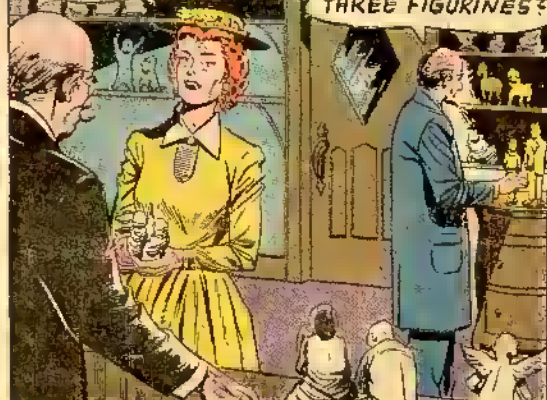
I ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD IT IN YOU!



ONE DAY, YEARS LATER, THEY WERE BROWSING IN A CURIOSITY SHOP IN VENICE...

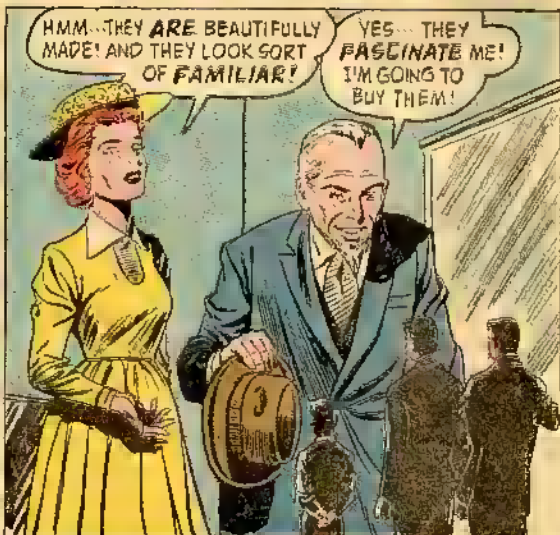
HOW MUCH FOR THESE?

MIND COMING OVER HERE, SWEETHEART? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE THREE FIGURINES?



HMM... THEY ARE BEAUTIFULLY MADE! AND THEY LOOK SORT OF FAMILIAR!

YES... THEY FASCINATE ME! I'M GOING TO BUY THEM!



IN SLOAN'S NEW YORK MANSION, THE FIGURINES ALWAYS HAD A PLACE OF HONOR...

HE WAS QUITE AN OLD MAN WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED...

HONESTLY, DEAR, I SIMPLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU STARE AT THOSE THINGS SO OFTEN! THEY SEEM TO HYPNOTIZE YOU!

IT--IT'S AS IF THEY'RE SPEAKING TO ME! I KNOW IT'S CRAZY, BUT SOMEHOW THEY SEEM VERY IMPORTANT IN MY LIFE! I WOULDN'T PART WITH THEM FOR ANYTHING!

THE MAID IS TERRIBLY APOLOGETIC, DEAR! SHE KNOCKED OVER THE TABLE UNWITTINGLY! CAN ANYTHING BE DONE?

I'LL TAKE THEM TO A REPAIR SHOP! I MUST BE SURE TO PICK UP ALL THE PIECES! SOMEHOW, I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN... SOONER OR LATER...



WHAT AN AWFUL NEIGHBORHOOD! WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT THE FIGURINES HERE?

I JUST TOOK THE FIRST NAME I SAW IN THE PHONE BOOK! YOU WAIT HERE WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER, KIDS--I WON'T BE LONG!



THE MOMENT HE ENTERED THE OLD BUILDING, A MYSTERIOUS SENSE OF DREAD SWEEPED OVER HIM---

IT'S...UNCANNY! THIS OLD BUILDING...IT SEEMS SO FAMILIAR TO ME! AND YET...I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE---

EVERYTHING HERE...IT SEEMS ENGRAVED ON MY MIND! WHY AM I SO...
'FRIGHTENED?'

HELLO. ANYBODY AROUND?

NO ONE ANSWERED HIS CALL! HE WENT INTO THE HALL, SPOKE TO A NEIGHBOR---

EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE OWNER OF THAT SHOP IS?

OLD MR. SLOANE? CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY! HE JUST DISAPPEARED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO AND HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE!

DID YOU SAY HIS NAME WAS...**SLOANE?** HOW... EXTRAORDINARY!

SAY...HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE, MISTER?

HE STARED AT THE SLOVENLY WOMAN, AND SOMEHOW... HE WAS SURE HE HAD SEEN HER BEFORE---

YOU...YOU **DO** SEEM FAMILIAR! BUT I'M SURE WE'VE NEVER MET!

NO, I GUESS NOT! STILL...THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU...

SLOANE LEFT HURRIEDLY! HE NEEDED FRESH AIR DESPERATELY---

WHAT'S WRONG, DEAR? YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET!

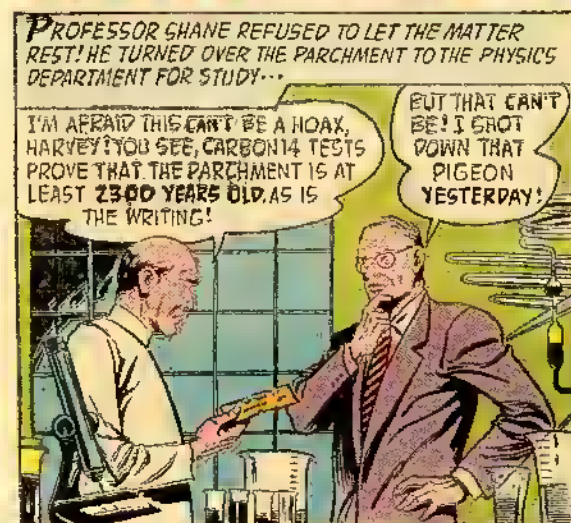
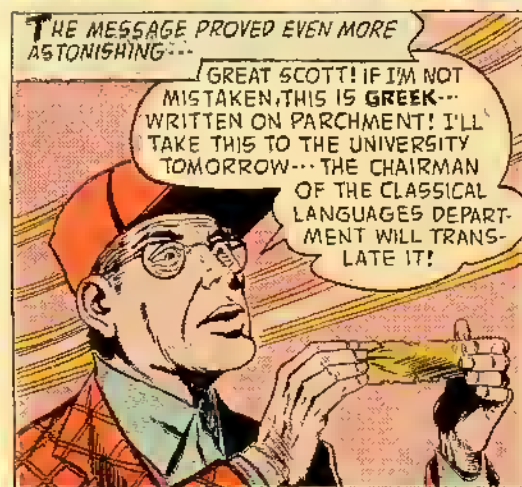
I...I DON'T KNOW!

AT A NEARBY ASHCAN, SLOANE GOT RID OF HIS PACKAGES, TO THE AMAZEMENT OF HIS WIFE---

YOU...YOU THREW THEM AWAY! BUT **WHY?** YOU WERE ALWAYS SO FOND OF THEM!

I...I DON'T WANT THEM ANY MORE! SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT THEY'VE...**SERVED THEIR PURPOSE!**

a PIGEON from GREECE!



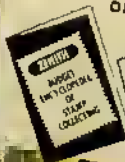
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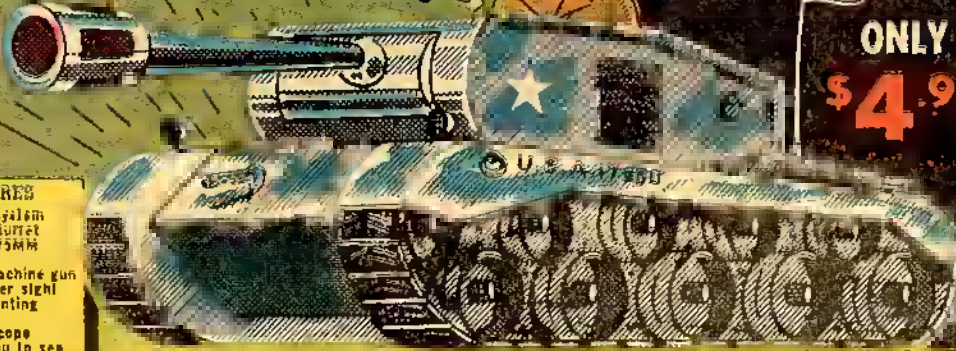
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The NOTHING CABINET

It was a strange friendship, that between Professor Arthur Stokes, debunker of the supernatural, and Henry Middleton, researcher into the occult. Continually, Stokes pooh-poohed superstition, while Middleton maintained that there were stranger things in this world than the mind of man could conceive. Always, he pointed to *Nostradamus*, the metaphysician of the middle ages, as proof that the *Unknown* really exists.

Finally, Professor Stokes determined to show up *Nostradamus'* experiments into the occult.

He was lucky enough to chance on an auction of newly-discovered apparatus that had belonged to the old sage, where he purchased a strange device called the *Nothing Cabinet*, an ancient wooden cabinet covered with strange, cabalistic signs. It had been built by *Nostradamus*, who stated that whomever closed himself within it and uttered a certain incantation would completely disappear. It was a stroke of luck to have come up with this, thought the Professor. He even had the proper incantation, written in still-legible medieval script. He would use it as the climax of his lecture; a laugh-getter which would clinch the case against superstition.

"Don't do it," warned Henry Middleton. "Don't meddle with forces you don't understand!"

But Professor Stokes only laughed, confident that Middleton feared to have his idol, *Nostradamus*, shown up.

The lecture was heavily attended, and everything went off swimmingly. Point by point, Stokes disposed of *Nostradamus'* experiments into the supernatural by the sheer force of his logic. And finally came the grand point of the evening, when the "Nothing Cabinet" was wheeled onstage. Stokes explained its nature, coaxing many a laugh from the audience.

Then he entered the old device, and closed the door after him. From within, his voice could be heard, chanting the ancient incantation, and the audience watched and listened, with broad grins of appreciation on their faces. Trust Professor Stokes to show up that charlatan! But the Professor didn't emerge. When they opened the cabinet, columns of dark smoke poured out. And inside—there was *nobody!*

Professor Stokes was never seen again. All that remained, still to be seen in the Museum of The Occult, was the *Nothing Cabinet*—empty!

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 2331) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

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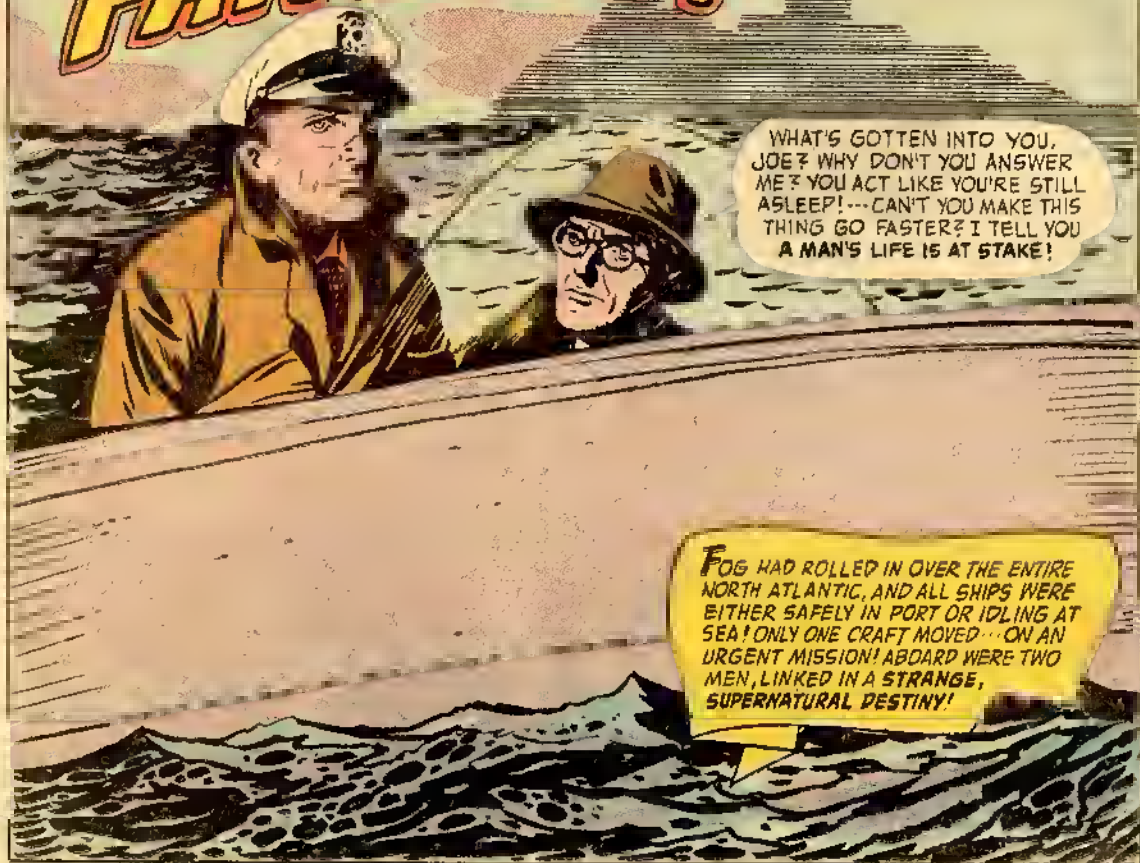
(Signed)

RICHARD E. HUGHES
Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this
24th day of September, 1957.

IRVING JUDKOFF
Notary Public, State of New York.
Term expires March 30, 1958

FOG and FANTASY!



WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, JOE? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME? YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE STILL ASLEEP!... CAN'T YOU MAKE THIS THING GO FASTER? I TELL YOU A MAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!

FOG HAD ROLLED IN OVER THE ENTIRE NORTH ATLANTIC, AND ALL SHIPS WERE EITHER SAFELY IN PORT OR IDLING AT SEA! ONLY ONE CRAFT MOVED... ON AN URGENT MISSION! ABOARD WERE TWO MEN, LINKED IN A STRANGE, SUPERNATURAL DESTINY!

DR. GEORGE BETHEL AND HIS WIFE WERE CONTENTEDLY SUNNING THEMSELVES ON THE BEACH IN FRONT OF THEIR SUMMER ISLAND HOME WHEN THE AMAZING CHAIN OF EVENTS BEGAN...

... AND NOW FOR A LOOK AT THE WEATHER! A HEAVY FOG WILL BLANKET THE ENTIRE COAST SHORTLY AFTER DARK! WARNINGS HAVE BEEN POSTED...

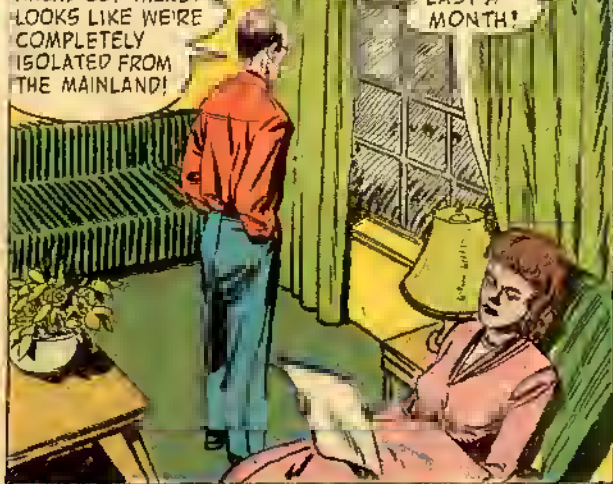
OH- OH... SOUNDS BAD...



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

CAN'T SEE THREE FEET AHEAD OUT THERE! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM THE MAINLAND!

WHO CARES? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO LAST A MONTH!



IT WAS LONG PAST MIDNIGHT WHEN...

WHO ON EARTH
COULD BE CALLING
US AT THIS HOUR?

WE'LL SOON
FIND OUT...

RING!
RING!
R-RING!



THE EXCITED VOICE ON THE OTHER END IMMEDIATELY
RESTORED HIM TO COMPLETE WAKEFULNESS...

WHAT'S THAT?... YES, OF COURSE
I'LL COME! WHAT CHOICE DO I
HAVE? GET THE OPERATING ROOM
READY!

WHAT? SURELY
YOU'RE NOT
THINKING OF
REACHING THE
MAINLAND
TONIGHT!



DR. BETHEL SLAMMED DOWN THE RECEIVER ANGRILY AND
LEAPED FROM HIS BED...

THEY'VE GOT A FELLOW IN THE
HOSPITAL WITH A CEREBRAL THROMBOSIS
...HE NEEDS AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION
AND I'M THE ONLY NEUROSURGEON
AVAILABLE! CALL JOE CARDWELL,
THE FELLOW WHO RUNS THE SEA
TAXI SERVICE!



GOOD HEAVENS, THE
LINE IS DEAD! MUST
BE A POWER FAILURE!
WHAT NOW?

KEEP TRYING! JOE'S
MY ONLY CHANCE OF
GETTING THERE...
AND A MAN'S LIFE
IS AT STAKE!



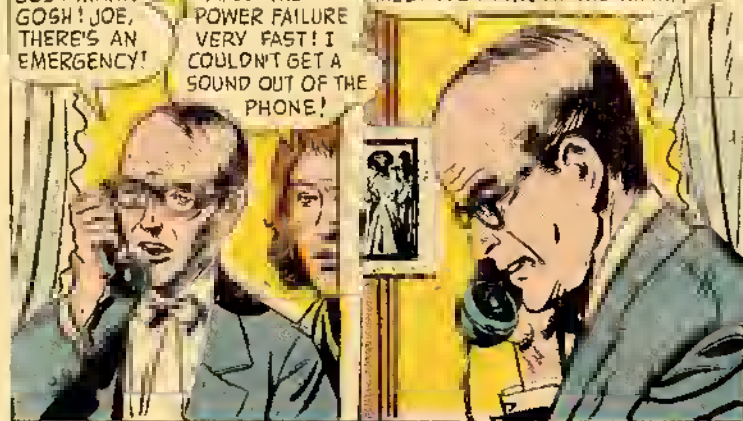
BUT THE LINE REMAINED DEAD!
THE DOCTOR FINISHED DRESSING,
PICKED UP THE PHONE HIMSELF...

HELLO! HELLO!
JOE? THANK
GOSH! JOE,
THERE'S AN
EMERGENCY!

THEY MUST'VE
FIXED THE
POWER FAILURE
VERY FAST! I
COULDN'T GET A
SOUND OUT OF THE
PHONE!

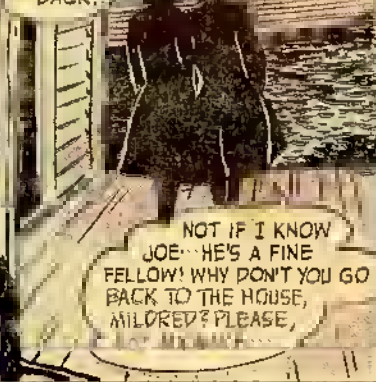
THE DOCTOR EXPLAINED RAPIDLY...

I KNOW IT'S QUITE RISKY TO GO
OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS... BUT
THERE'S NO CHOICE! --GOOD, I'LL
MEET YOU DOWN AT THE WHARF!



THE FOG WAS COLD AND CLAMMY,
AND WAITING WAS HARD...

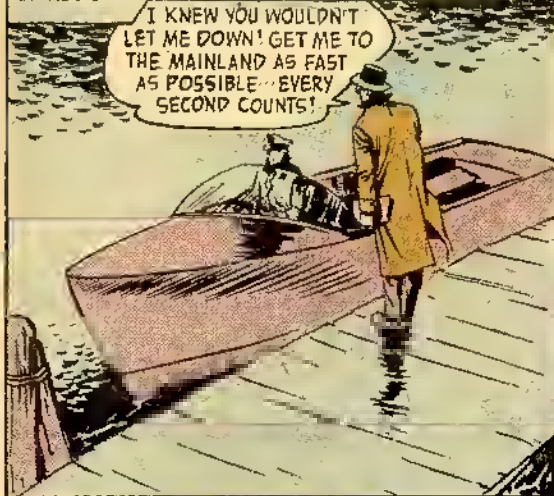
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE
ALREADY! HE'S PROBABLY CHANGED
HIS MIND AND
TURNED
BACK!



NOT IF I KNOW
JOE... HE'S A FINE
FELLOW! WHY DON'T YOU GO
BACK TO THE HOUSE,
MILDRED? PLEASE,

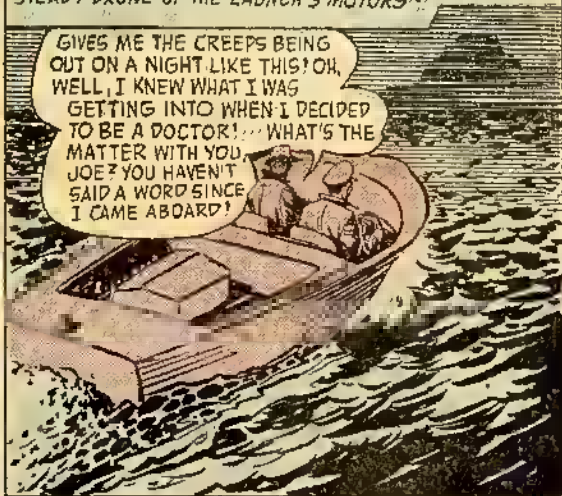
DR. BETHEL WAS ALONE WHEN THE LAUNCH FINALLY APPEARED OUT OF THE MIST! HE BREATHED A DEEP SIGH OF RELIEF...

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN! GET ME TO THE MAINLAND AS FAST AS POSSIBLE... EVERY SECOND COUNTS!



ALL THAT COULD BE HEARD ON THE FOG-LADEN CHANNEL WAS THE GENTLE TINKLING OF NEARBY BUOYS, AND THE STEADY DRONE OF THE LAUNCH'S MOTORS...

GIVES ME THE CREEPS BEING OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS! OH, WELL, I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO WHEN I DECIDED TO BE A DOCTOR!... WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, JOE? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD SINCE I CAME ABOARD!



THERE WAS NO REPLY! DR. BETHEL GASPED AT HIS YOUNG PILOT'S BEHAVIOR, THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME NOTICED THE GLAZED STARE IN HIS EYE...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ASLEEP ON YOUR FEET! DID I WAKE YOU OUT OF A DEEP SLUMBER?... SAY, WHAT IS THIS? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?



STILL THERE WAS NO REPLY! NOW THE SILENCE BECAME EERIE, AND WHEN AT LAST THEY REACHED THE MAINLAND...

I'M RUSHING OFF TO THE HOSPITAL! I'LL TALK TO YOU IN THE MORNING, JOE! YOU'RE ACTING MIGHTY STRANGE!



PREPARING SWIFTLY FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATION, DR. BETHEL WAS GIVEN A QUICK SUMMARY OF THE PATIENT'S CONDITION...

THERE'S CONSIDERABLE HEMORRHAGE AT THE BASE OF THE CORTX! HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE IF PRESSURE ISN'T RELIEVED AT ONCE! YOU WERE THE ONLY MAN AVAILABLE...



EVERYTHING IS PREPARED! I'LL ASSIST YOU!

GOOD! LET'S GO!

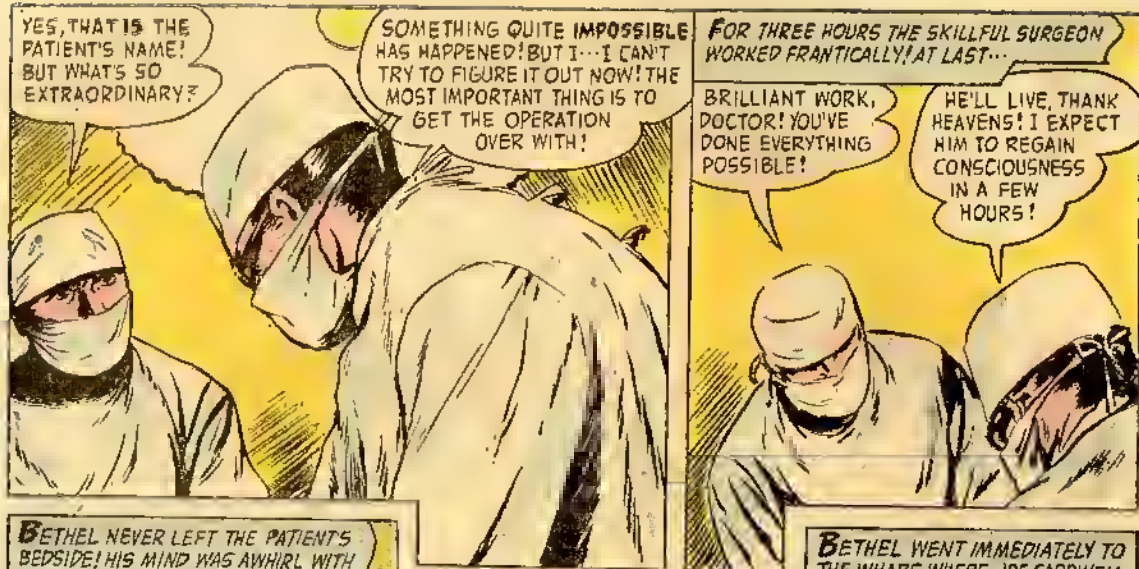


BETHEL STRODE TO THE OPERATING TABLE, GLANCED RAPIDLY AT THE PATIENT, THEN RECOILED IN SHOCK...

WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A...

IT... IT'S JOE CARDWELL! NO, I MUST BE GOING MAD!





YES, THAT IS THE PATIENT'S NAME! BUT WHAT'S SO EXTRAORDINARY?

SOMETHING QUITE IMPOSSIBLE HAS HAPPENED! BUT I... I CAN'T TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT NOW! THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE OPERATION OVER WITH!

FOR THREE HOURS THE SKILLFUL SURGEON WORKED FRANTICALLY! AT LAST...

BRILLIANT WORK, DOCTOR! YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!

HE'LL LIVE, THANK HEAVENS! I EXPECT HIM TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS IN A FEW HOURS!

BETHEL NEVER LEFT THE PATIENT'S BEDSIDE! HIS MIND WAS AWHIRL WITH FANTASTIC EXPLANATIONS NONE OF THEM SATISFACTORY! WHEN CARDWELL FINALLY OPENED HIS EYES...

WH... WHERE ARE YOU? YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, JOE! YOU AM I? YOU HAD A SUDDEN CLOT ON THE BRAIN... YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU! JOE, ANSWER THIS QUESTION... DO YOU HAVE A TWIN BROTHER?

NO... WHAT EVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA...? OH, MY HEAD'S SPINNING...

GIVE HIM A SEDATIVE, NURSE! I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE!

BETHEL WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHARF WHERE JOE CARDWELL RAN HIS BUSINESS...

NO, NOBODY TOOK OVER FOR JOE LAST NIGHT! WHAT FOR? THE FOG WAS SO THICK YOU COULDN'T PUT A BOAT OUT TO SEA!

JOE CARDWELL'S SEA TAXI - R

I TELL YOU I CALLED JOE'S NUMBER AND SOMEBODY CAME OUT TO PICK ME UP!

DUNNO WHAT TO SAY, DOC! THE PHONES ALL WENT DEAD ALONG THE COAST LATE LAST NIGHT... THE LINES WEREN'T FIXED TILL A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING! AFTER ALL, I'M HERE... AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T WALK ACROSS THE CHANNEL!

HE STOOD ON THE WHARF ALONE, LOOKING OUT TO SEA FOR A LONG TIME, THINKING THOUGHTS THAT WOULD PLAGUE HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...

THAT WAS JOE PILOTING THE BOAT... EVEN THOUGH HE LAY AT DEATH'S DOOR IN THE HOSPITAL! I WAS THE ONE MAN WHO COULD SAVE HIM, AND SOMEHOW... WITH HIS BRAIN DAMAGED... HE KNEW IT! SOME PART OF HIM, PERHAPS HIS WILL TO LIVE... CAME OUT TO GET ME! BUT CAN SUCH THINGS HAPPEN?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, READER?

THE END!

THE THREE YOUNG ENGINEERS HAD BEEN LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND THEIR URANIUM-HUNTING EXPEDITION WAS MERELY AN INTERESTING WAY TO SPEND THEIR VACATION! THEY DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING... CERTAINLY NOT ANYTHING SO FABULOUS AS THE OASIS! NOR DID THEY ANTICIPATE THE TERROR THEY WOULD KNOW, THE THREAT OF VIOLENT DOOM, ALL THE RESULT OF...

MUSHROOM MADNESS!



A MONTH HAD PASSED, AND THEY HAD FOUND NOTHING! THEY DIDN'T REALLY CARE, FOR THE EXPEDITION WAS MAINLY A LARK...

THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD
PLACE TO MAKE CAMP FOR
THE NIGHT!

SWELL! I'LL SCOUT
AROUND FOR SOME
FIRE WOOD!



THE TRIP HAD BROUGHT THE THREE OF THEM EVEN CLOSER TOGETHER...

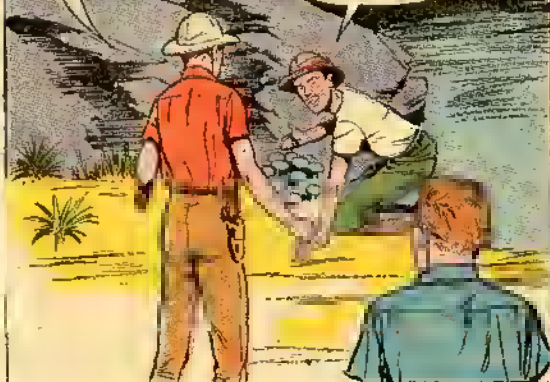
WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE SEEN
THE WEST! IT SURE WOULD
HAVE BEEN NICE TO GET
RICH, THOUGH!

HEY, FELLAS...
COME QUICK!
LOOK WHAT I
FOUND!



HOLY COW! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU FOUND URANIUM! WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT A CLUMP OF MUSH-ROOMS?

THEY'RE JUST THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD THERE IS. THAT'S ALL! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY GREW IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY! MAN, I'M GOING TO HAVE A FEAST!



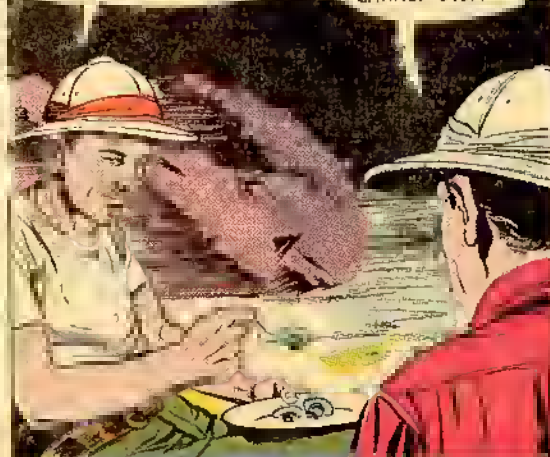
SURE YOU GUYS WON'T HAVE SOME? I GATHERED ENOUGH FOR AT LEAST TWO MEALS!

I HATE THE STUFF MYSELF! I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING... AREN'T SOME MUSH-ROOMS POISONOUS?



I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS VARIETY BEFORE, BUT I CAN TELL THEY'RE SAFE! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!

DON'T RUB IT IN, JOE... JUST BECAUSE WE'VE GOT TO EAT CANNED STUFF!



THEY SAT AROUND TALKING PLEASANTLY FOR ABOUT A HALF HOUR WHEN...

HEY, JOE. I JUST ASKED YOU A QUESTION! JOE! OH, MY GOSH! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?

HE... HE LOOKS PARALYZED! MAYBE HE'S POISONED!



THERE ISN'T A DOCTOR WITHIN 100 MILES OF... OH-OH, HE'S STARTING TO MUMBLE SOMETHING!

GOLD... GOLD! THE OASIS... UNTOLD WEALTH!



FOR 15 MINUTES, THE BARELY AUDIBLE MUMBLING CONTINUED! SUPPLYING JOE SNAPPED OUT OF IT! HIS EYES GREW CLEAR...

YOU ALL RIGHT? BUDDY, YOU SURE HAD US SCARED!

IT--IT WAS INCREDIBLE! MY HALLUCINATION... SO VIVID! I COULD HAVE SWORN EVERYTHING WAS REAL!



I SAW EVERYTHING CLEAR AS DAY! WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?

LOOK, JOE, WE COULD USE A NICE OASIS AFTER THE HEAT WE'VE TAKEN! NOW FORGET ABOUT IT AND GET SOME SLEEP! AND YOU BETTER NOT EAT ANY MORE OF THOSE MUSHROOMS!



FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE TRIO MOVED SOUTH, INTO THE BLISTERING HEAT OF THE DESERT...

IF YOU ASK ME, THERE JUST ISN'T ANY URANIUM IN NEVADA!

I'LL BET YOU COULD FRY EGGS ON THE SAND! MAN, IT MUST BE 120 TODAY!

ON AND ON THEY WENT, AND EACH DAY THE HEAT GREW MORE FIERCE! FOR TWO DAYS THEY HAD BEEN RATIONING WATER...

I... I'M SEEING THINGS! LOOK ... ON THE HORIZON! IS THAT REAL?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

GREAT GUNS... IT'S AN OASIS! YIPPEE!

OH, NO... IT CAN'T BE! IT... IT'S EXACTLY LIKE MY HALLUCINATION!

IT'S EXACT... IN EVERY DETAIL! FELLAS, THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT...

CLAM UP, JOE... AN OASIS IS AN OASIS! YOU WERE JUST BABBLING! LET ME AT THAT POOL!

ARRHH... THIS IS THE LIFE! OLD JOE WAS SURE SEEING THINGS RIGHT! NOW IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME GOLD AROUND HERE!

DON'T KID ABOUT IT, FELLAS! I FEEL AWFUL NERVOUS... LIKE SOMETHING HORRIBLE WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! THERE WAS A PART OF MY HALLUCINATION I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER...

GOOD GRIEF, HE'S GOT THAT GLAZED LOOK IN HIS EYES AGAIN! JOE, WHAT IS IT?

THE ROCK... UNDER THE ROCK! IT'S THERE!

LIKE A MAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON, HE RACED FORWARD! HIS FACE WAS FRENZIED...

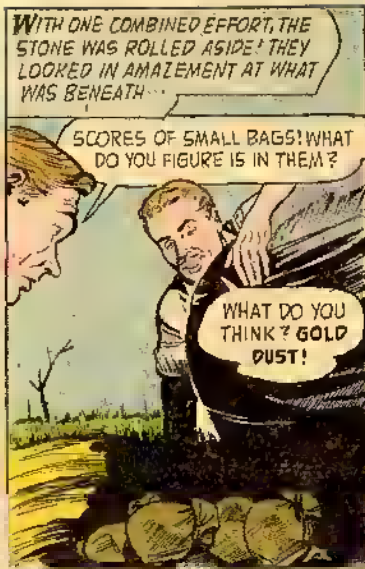
I... I CAN'T BUDGE IT! GIVE ME A HAND! QUICK!

HE... HE'S GONE OFF HIS ROCKER! OKAY, BOY, TAKE IT EASY!



IT-- IT'S STARTING TO GIVE!
ONE MORE HEAVE!

IT'S UNDER-
NEATH! I KNOW
IT'S THERE!
GOLD!



WITH ONE COMBINED EFFORT, THE
STONE WAS ROLLED ASIDE! THEY
LOOKED IN AMAZEMENT AT WHAT
WAS BENEATH...

SCORES OF SMALL BAGS! WHAT
DO YOU FIGURE IS IN THEM?

WHAT DO YOU
THINK? GOLD
DUST!



WITH TREMBLING FINGERS, HE CUT
OPEN ONE OF THE BAGS! THE DUST
GLEAMED...

GREAT GUNS!
WE... WE'RE
RICH!

THERE
MUST BE
HUNDREDS
OF THOUSANDS
IN THESE
BAGS!



THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE, AND THEN...
PANDEMONIUM BROKE LOOSE...

YAHOOOO! WE'RE
IN THE CHIPS!

GOOD OLD
JOE!

BOYOHBOY!



THEIR TRIP WAS OVER... THEY AGREED TO HEAD BACK
FOR CIVILIZATION IN THE MORNING! AS THEY STARTED
SUPPER, THE DELIRIOUS HAPPINESS CONTINUED...

WE WERE HOPING FOR
ANY KIND OF STRIKE...
BUT LOOK WHAT WE
FOUND! WHAT LUCK!

THEY EXPECT TO SHARE
AND SHARE ALIKE, BUT IT
WAS I WHO FOUND THE
GOLD! IT SHOULD ALL
BELONG TO ME... AT
LEAST THE MAJOR
SHARE!



SURE WISH WE HAD
CAVIAR AND CHAMPAGNE
HERE TO CELEBRATE!
I'M MIGHTY SICK OF
THIS CANNED FOOD!

SO AM I! THINK I'LL
FINISH THE REST OF
THE MUSHROOMS...



SAVING ONE TO SHOW TO A BOTANIST WHEN THEY
RETURNED TO CIVILIZATION, HE BEGAN FRYING THE
REST...

I HOPE YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING, JOE!
YOU GOT PLENTY
SICK LAST TIME!

IT BROUGHT US
LUCK, DIDN'T IT?
WHERE WOULD
WE BE IF I HADN'T
EATEN THEM?

DEEP WITHIN, HE WAS INTENSELY CURIOUS WHETHER HE'D HAVE ANOTHER HALLUCINATION, WHAT INFORMATION IT MIGHT CONTAIN! BUT BEDTIME CAME WITHOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING...

SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, JOE?

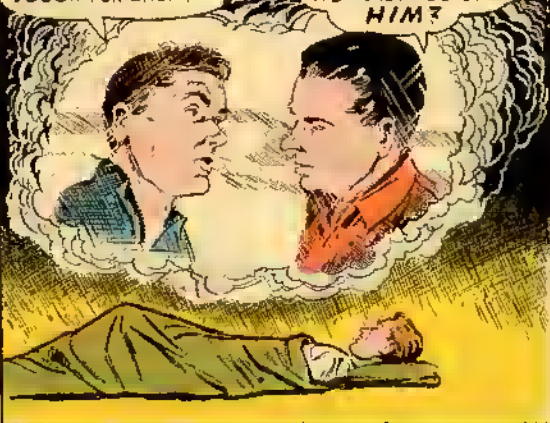
I'M FINE... THE MUSHROOMS HAD NO EFFECT! BETTER GET TO SLEEP... WE WANT TO GET AN EARLY START IN THE MORNING!



THE MOMENT HE CLOSED HIS EYES SLEEP, UNNATURAL SLEEP, CAME ON! HE DREAMED, WITH INTENSE VIVIDNESS...

IF THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF US, THERE'D BE MORE DOUGH FOR EACH!

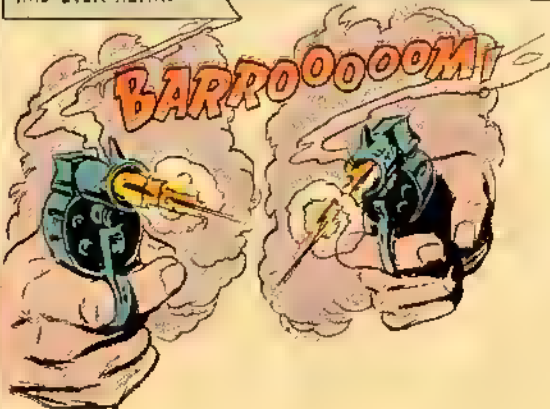
JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING! WHY DON'T WE... DISPOSE OF HIM?



HE SAW THEM APPROACH HIS SLEEPING FORM, DRAW THEIR GUNS...

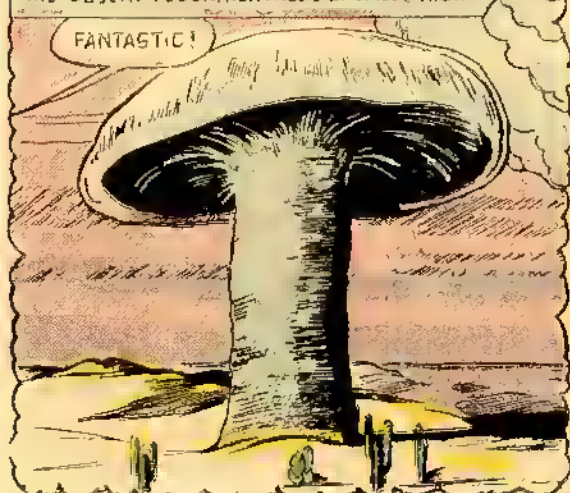


THE GUNS GREW IMMENSELY LARGE, HE COULD SEE THE RIFLING WITHIN THE BARRELS! THEN THERE WAS A CRASH OF GUNFIRE, AN EXPLOSION LOUDER THAN ANYTHING HE HAD EVER HEARD...



AT THE SAME INSTANT, THE IMAGE CHANGED! HE SAW AN IMMENSE MUSHROOM GROWING OUT OF THE DESERT FLOOR, HUNDREDS OF MILES HIGH

FANTASTIC!



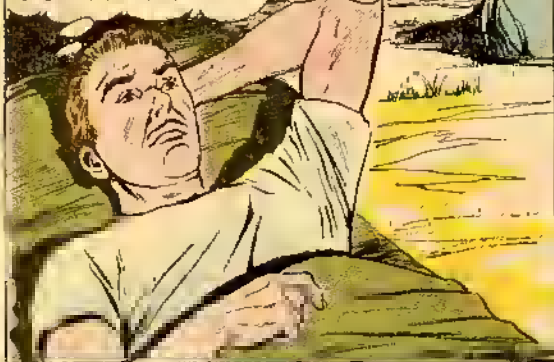
HE WOKE WITH A START, GRABBING FOR HIS GUN...

NO YOU DON'T! I'M GOING TO... WHAT THE...! THEY'RE FAST ASLEEP! IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM!



HE WAS WIDE AWAKE NOW, AWAKE AND WORRIED...

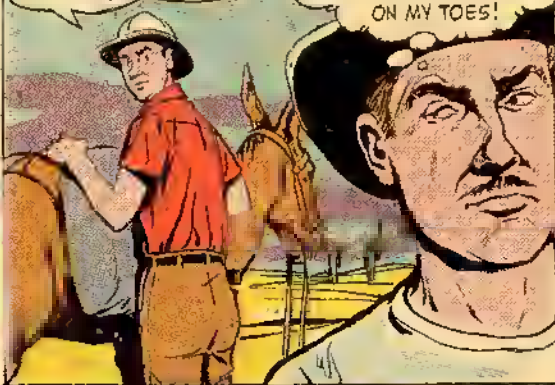
MAYBE IT WAS ONLY A DREAM... BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN A WARNING TOO! I DON'T TRUST MIKE AND FRANK... THEY JUST MIGHT BE PLANNING SOMETHING! I DON'T DARE SLEEP ANY MORE! THAT EXPLOSION AND THE BIG MUSHROOM... WHAT COULD THAT PART MEAN?



THEY BROKE CAMP NEXT MORNING, THE BAGS OF GOLD DUST SECURELY TIED TO THE MULES...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PAL? DIDN'T YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT? I SNOOZED LIKE A ROCK!

THEY NOTICE THAT I'M TIRED! MAYBE THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME TO LOSE ALERTNESS... I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON MY TOES!



AFRAID TO TURN HIS BACK ON THEM, HE MANAGED THINGS SO THAT HE WALKED BEHIND THEM...

NOW I CAN KEEP THEM UNDER OBSERVATION AT ALL TIMES! CAN'T LET THEM GET TOO FAR AHEAD, THOUGH... I DON'T WANT THEM WHISPERING ANYTHING I CAN'T HEAR!



THE HOURS PASSED, AND THE SUN BEAT DOWN UNMERCIFULLY! JOE FELT DIZZY AND AFRAID, FOR HE COULD NO LONGER HEAR HIS FRIENDS TALKING! WHO KNEW WHAT THEY MIGHT BE CONSPIRING?

M MIKE'S GOT HIS HAND CLOSE TO HIS GUN, AS IF HE MIGHT WHIRL AND FIRE ANY SECOND! OH, LORD, WHAT SHOULD I DO?



HE NO LONGER COULD SEE STRAIGHT... GREAT WAVES OF HEAT SEEMED TO RISE FROM THE DESERT FLOOR...

I'M... SO TIRED AND SCARED! MAYBE I SHOULD ATTACK BEFORE THEY DO IT FIRST! WH... WHAT AM I THINKING? THESE GUYS ARE MY LIFELONG BUDDIES! THOSE MUSHROOMS MUST HAVE SCRAMBLED MY BRAINS!



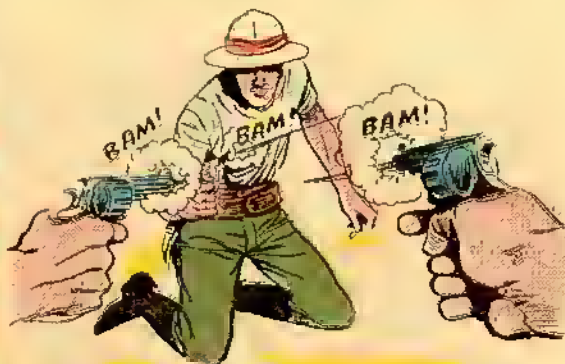
HE'D NEVER HAD SUCH THOUGHTS BEFORE, BUT NOW WITH LOUD RINGING IN HIS EARS AND HIS STRENGTH GONE, HIS FRIENDS SUDDENLY WHIRLED...

DON'T MISS!

NO! NO! DON'T!



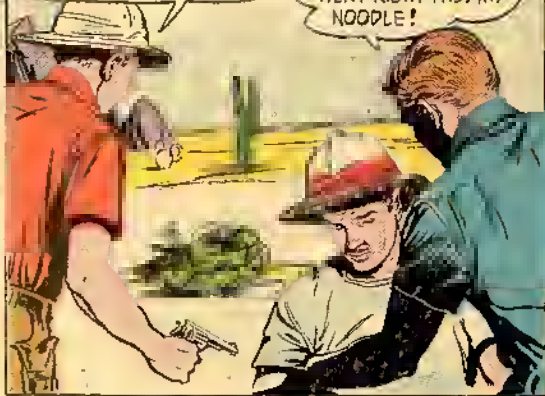
HE STUMBLED TO HIS KNEES, REACHING FOR HIS GUN, JUST AS THEIR GUNS BLAZED! HIS OWN SHOTS WERE WILD...



EVEN IN HIS DAZED STATE, HE REALIZED THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS! HE TURNED AS FRANK RAN PAST HIM...

GOT THE RATTLER CLEAN!
RIGHT THROUGH THE EYES!

WHAT WERE YOU FIRING
AT, JOE? YOUR SLUG
WENT RIGHT PAST MY
NOODLE!



ONLY THEN DID HE UNDERSTAND THAT HIS FRIENDS WERE FIRING AT SOMETHING BEHIND HIM, TRYING TO SAVE HIS LIFE!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE RATTLER?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHAT WERE YOU FIRING
AT?

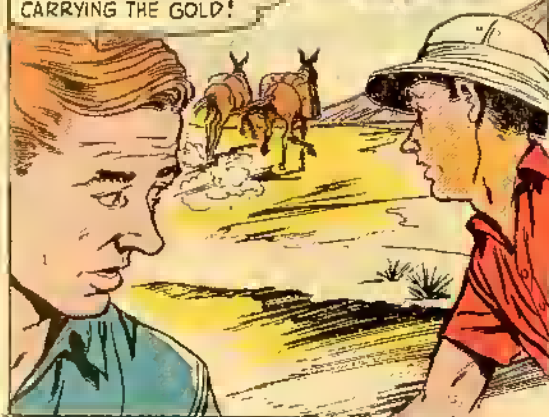
YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
YOU ALMOST HIT ME!
WHAT WERE YOU
TRYING TO DO?



IN THE CONFUSION THEY HAD NOT NOTICED THAT THE MULES, TERRIFIED BY THE RATTLER AND THE GUN-FIRE, HAD BOLTED...

OH, MY GOSH! THEY'VE
STAMPEDED... AND THEY'RE
CARRYING THE GOLD!

AFTER THEM! THEY
MUSTN'T GET AWAY!



WITH BURSTING LUNGS AND LEADEN FEET THEY PURSUED THE TERRIFIED ANIMALS, STUMBLING AND FALLING ACROSS THE BURNING DESERT FLOOR, WHILE SAND CHOKED THEIR LUNGS...

I---I'M SORRY, FELLAS!
I MUST'VE BEEN NUTS...

SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH! WE'VE
GOT TO CATCH UP
THAT GOLD!



EVERY PASSING MOMENT CARRIED THE MULES FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY! UNABLE TO RUN ANY LONGER, THEY TRUDGED WEARILY ON...

THEY'RE NOT EVEN IN SIGHT ANY MORE!
OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT THEY'LL SLOW
DOWN WHEN THEIR FEAR IS GONE!

WE CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
THEY'RE CARRYING OUR
FORTUNE!



NOW THEY WERE DEAD BEAT! THEY SAT DOWN UNDER THE BLAZING SUN TO REST...

THE MULES MUST
BE MILES UP
AHEAD BY
NOW...

LISTEN, FELLAS,
YOU'VE GOT TO
BELIEVE ME! I
LOST MY HEAD! IT
WAS ALL THOSE
MUSHROOMS...
THEY GAVE ME
CRAZY IDEAS!



I HAD A DREAM... LIKE A WARNING!
AND THERE WAS A GREAT EXPLOSION,
AND A MUSHROOM GROWING MILES
HIGH...

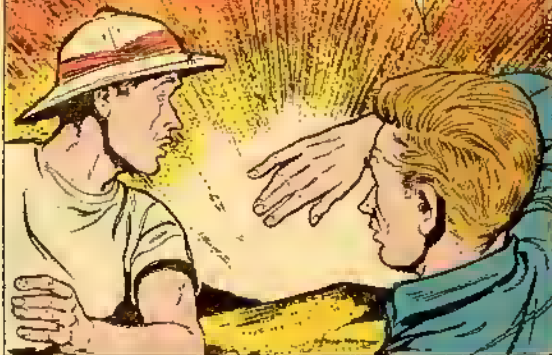
YOU'RE STILL OUT OF YOUR
HEAD! HOLY COW, IF WE
DON'T CATCH THOSE
MULES, WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO FOR
WATER?



SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, LIKE THAT OF A THOUSAND SUNS, AND FOR AN INSTANT, THE SILENCE OF THE DESERT REMAINED UNBROKEN...

GREAT HEAVENS!
WHAT'S THAT?

MY EYES!
I CAN'T
SEE!



AND THEN... A MIGHTY ROAR! A DEAFENING ROAR ALMOST TOO MUCH FOR HUMAN FLESH TO BEAR...

IT'S AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION!
FLATTEN OUT! IT'S OUR
ONLY CHANCE!

BARROOOOM!



ALL THREE REALIZED AT ONCE THAT THEY HAD, IN THEIR STUPIDITY, STUMBLERD INTO A U.S. GOVERNMENT ATOMIC TESTING AREA! THEY QUAILED IN TERROR AS THE BLAST WAVE PASSED OVER THEM! THEN...

THANK HEAVENS
... WE'RE
SAFE!

THERE IT IS... THE GREATEST
MUSHROOM I'VE EVER SEEN...
BUT IT ISN'T A REAL MUSHROOM
... JUST THE SHAPE OF AN
ATOMIC CLOUD...



TWO HOURS LATER, THEY WERE PICKED UP BY U.S. JEEPS PATROLLING THE AREA! THEY BEGGED FOR WORD OF THE MULES...

YOU GUYS KIDDING? ANYTHING
CLOSER TO THE BLAST THAN YOU
WERE WOULD'VE BEEN PULVERIZED!
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT
A COUPLE OF MULES? YOU
GUYS ARE LUCKY YOU'RE
ALIVE!



SO THE GOLD WAS GONE, AND THE THREE BUDDIES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GO BACK TO THEIR JOBS! EVERYTHING WAS ALMOST THE SAME BETWEEN THEM, BUT THERE WAS A CERTAIN COOLNESS NOW...

THEY CAN'T FORGIVE ME... AND I DON'T
BLAME THEM! THAT I SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT THEY WANTED TO HURT ME...
THAT I FIRED AT THEM... WHAT
COULD HAVE
GOTTEN INTO
ME?



JOE TOOK THE DRIED MUSHROOM HE'D SAVED IN HIS POCKET TO A BOTANIST...

A VERY INTERESTING
SPECIMEN... NEVER BEEN
CATALOGGED! WON'T YOU LEAVE
IT HERE FOR ANALYSIS? I'D LIKE
TO KNOW WHERE YOU FOUND IT
GROWING!

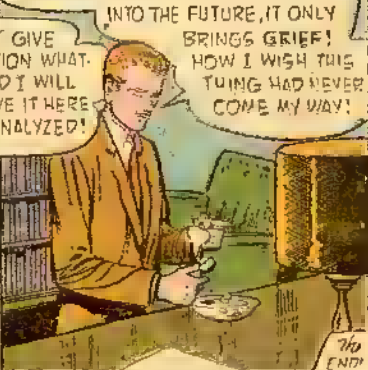


I'M AFRAID I CAN'T GIVE
YOU ANY INFORMATION WHAT-
EVER! AND I WILL
NOT LEAVE IT HERE
TO BE ANALYZED!

ALONE AND IN PRIVATE, HE BURNED THE THING CAREFULLY...

BETTER THAT MANKIND DOES NOT
DISCOVER ITS PROPERTIES! FOR
WHAT DOES IT DO BUT TURN LOOSE
THE DARKEST SIDE OF MAN'S MIND,
AS IT DID WITH ME? AS FOR PEERING

INTO THE FUTURE, IT ONLY
BRINGS GRIEF!
HOW I WISH THIS
THING HAD NEVER
COME MY WAY!



NO
END!

FORCES YOU TO SAVE

Savings Mount Up Quickly
and Easily

Yes, it's easy with the Dime Register Bank because it shows you your progress day by day. You'll be amazed how those dimes you think almost nothing of grow to dollars, tens, twenties, fifties and even hundreds.

Before you know it you have the money for just the things you wanted for yourself and it hasn't hurt one bit. The register tells you exactly how much you have saved and the door unlocks automatically when the bank is full.

**A FREE DIME
STARTS YOU ROLLING**

And for good luck, just to start you off right, we give you a bright new shiny dime with the bank.



**ONLY
\$1.00**

**10 Day
Trial—FREE**

FREE!

Shiny new
"Good Luck"
Dime to start
you off right.

Just send one dollar with your name and address and we will rush your Register Bank and shiny new Dime to you. Use it 10 days Free. If You're not 100% delighted, we will refund the money you sent.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Honor House Products Corp. Dept. DB-13
Lynbrook, New York

Rush me _____ Register Bank by return mail.
I enclose \$1 for each. If I am not satisfied I may
return it after 10 Days FREE TRIAL for refund of
the money I sent.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Automatic Firing Tripod Machine Gun

IT'S MAGAZINE FED—SWIVELS IN ALL DIRECTIONS!

Kids, here's an authentic reproduction of a U.S.A. type 1917A1 water-cooled machine gun, loaded with devastating fire power. This high-powered hunk of fighting equipment loads ammunition right into the magazine like a real machine gun. Then, by means of the automatic repeating device it fires 10 rounds full as fast as you pull the trigger. It sets up sturdily on its tripod, and the swivel base turns in all directions to assure complete coverage and range, with a special sight attachment to insure a direct hit. Imagine the thrill of you advance with your machine gun blasting the enemy in a hail of fast firing automatic repeating pellets.

DEVELOPS DEADLY TARGET SKILL

A full size target comes to you along with your exciting Tripod Machine Gun. Just like the army training program, you too can acquire great shooting skill, till in no time you'll be hitting the mark with deadly accuracy. But don't delay! Order now Only \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. TB-23
35 Wilbur Street Lynbrook, N. Y.

Rush my automatic repeating Tripod Machine Gun and target at once. If I am not 100% delighted I may return it after 10 day Free Trial for prompt refund of full purchase price.

☐ I enclose \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery.

Name _____

Address _____



1.98

LOOK AT ALL YOU GET

- Pellet firing Tripod Machine Gun with sight
- Fires 10 rounds as fast as you pull the trigger
- Loads with a magazine
- Full size target for practice
- Full supply of ammunition

10 DAY FREE TRIAL
We're so sure that you'll be delighted that we offer a full 10 day Free Trial. You risk nothing. Send only \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges for the complete outfit including Tripod Machine Gun, full supply of pellets and target.

EDITOR

LET'S TALK IT OVER!

No, we haven't changed our announced policy of devoting more space to your letters, readers! We're just waiting to hear from you on whether you want last month's big letter spread made a permanent policy. Address your vote to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown," 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y. Meanwhile, here are a few interesting items!

If we did, we'd write smarter ones than yours. We've got only one comment for people like you. In a word—phooey!

* * *

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for ten years. At the beginning, your stuff was scarier. But now it's better—there's thought to your plots and challenge to your stories. Thanks!

—Ed Reilly, Wichita, Kans."

You're welcome, Ed. It's nice satisfying a reader like you!

* * *

"Dear Editor:-

I like your stories, but I've got one criticism—they're not true. How's about giving us stuff that really happened?

—Tom Ericson, Chicago, Ill."

Come off it, will you, Tom? We never pretended that this was a history book—it's an adventure magazine in which we print exciting and amazing stories that thrill and entertain. Don't believe that old saw about truth being stranger than fiction—it just ain't so!

* * *

"Dear Editor:-

I Never dreamed I'd come across a comic with nerve enough to print a story like 'The Strangeness of Mr. McGillicuddy.' Why? Because it's really great, with imagination and humor to it. Orchids to 'Adventures Into The Unknown'!

—Lilian Hartson, Syracuse, N.Y."

Take your nose out of the air and come down to earth, Lilian. Good comics magazines always strive after imagination in their stories. We always do—and we were lucky enough to have clicked all the way on this yarn!

* 1 *

"Dear Editor:-

You'd think that even morons would get tired of the stuff you keep dishing out. I don't see how anybody believes the letters you print—you write them yourself, don't you?

—Joseph Maczyk, Austin Tex."

"Dear Editor:-

I've always liked 'Adventures Into The Unknown'—matter of fact, it's been my favorite for years. Then along comes an issue like you ran in December—and I feel like starting a one-man rebellion. Why? Let's take 'A Higher Power'—a story that's been done to death, over and over. 'The Anyweight Champion'—a jerky plot that didn't convince me for a second. 'Remote Control'—just plain dull. Oh, sure, 'Doom Foiled' was really fine on all scores, but it didn't make up for the rest. A magazine of great stories like you've run should be ashamed!

—Sal Tassoni, Bucyrus, Ohio"

We feel a bit shamefaced, Sal, because you've got a case. This issue could have been better, but we more than made up for it in our January number. Read it—and tell us how you liked "Pie In The Sky." And how about "Pipe Dream", in February—"The Endless Chain" in March? We're sure we'll be more than forgiving!

* * *

"Dear Editor:-

I'm swearing off television as long as I can read stories like 'Adventures Into The Unknown' publishes. Your magazine holds the attention from beginning to end, with better writers than TV seems to have!

—Dorothy Gorman, Minneapolis, Minn."

We've seen many of the stories we reject show up on a television screen. We'll continue to try to do our best for you, Dorothy. "Adventures Into The Unknown" is an old hand at thrilling and entertaining, you know!

Here's a strange, startling story -- one with a beginning, but no conclusion! Will it ever finish? That's for *YOU* to decide -- after you've read --

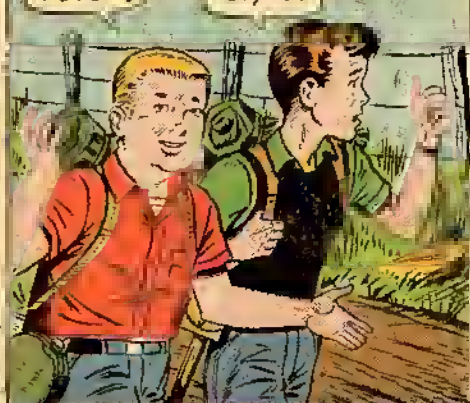
THE ENDLESS CHAIN!



Meet
TOMMIE
BURNS
AND AL
FOSTER...
AWAY
FROM
HOME
TOGETHER
FOR
THE
FIRST
TIME
IN
THEIR
LIVES!
THEY
WERE
SPENDING
THEIR
VACATION
HITCH-
HIKING--

BOY, THIS IS
THE STUFF, HUH,
TOMMIE? OUT
ON OUR OWN
--NOTHING--
TO WORRY
ABOUT!

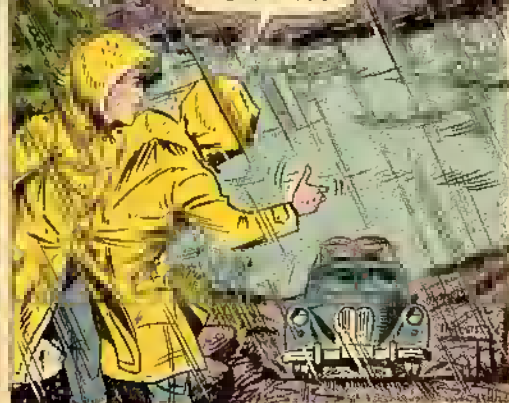
EXCEPT THAT
DARK CLOUD
UP THERE!
I'M AFRAID
THERE'S A HEAVY
STORM COMING
UP, AL!

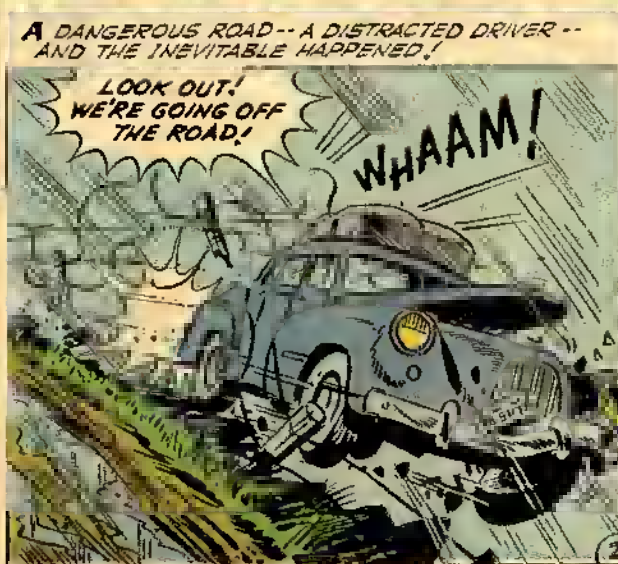
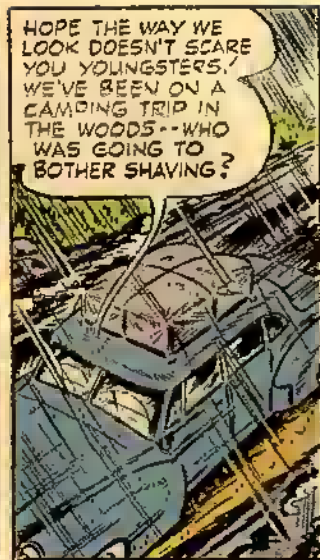


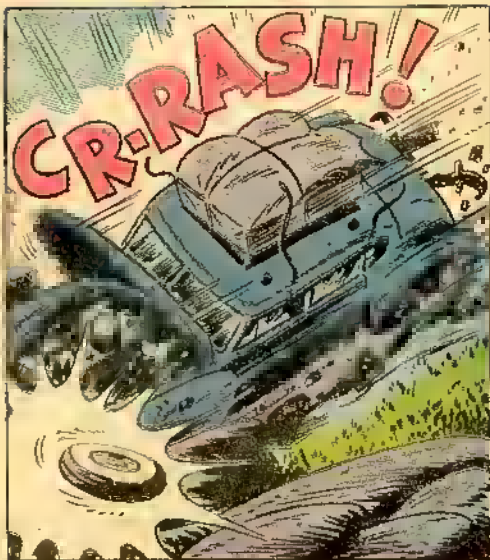
THE PREDICTION WAS CORRECT --

WE--WE
BETTER GET
UNDER COVER
BEFORE WE
DROWN!

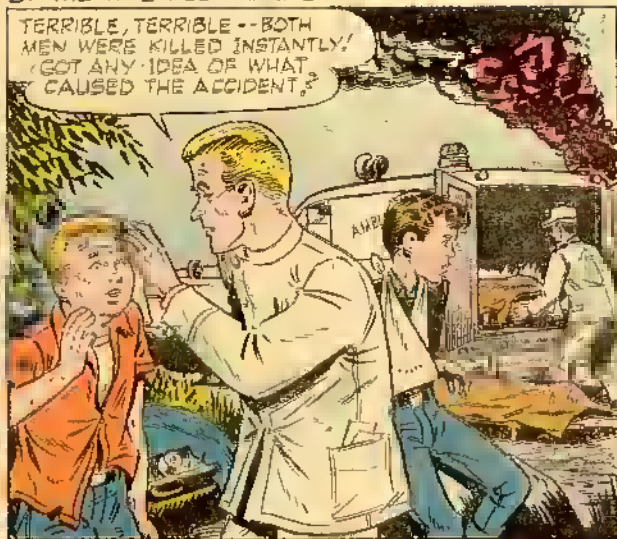
HERE COMES A C-CAR!
GUESS NOBODY'LL
STOP FOR US IN
THIS RAIN-- BUT
WE MIGHT AS
WELL TRY!



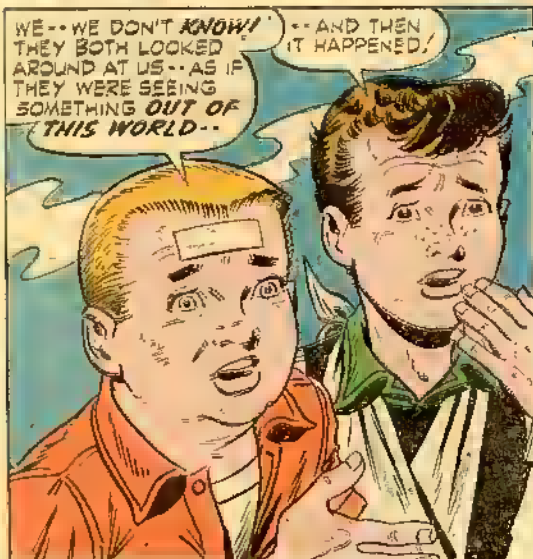




BY THE TIME HELP ARRIVED --

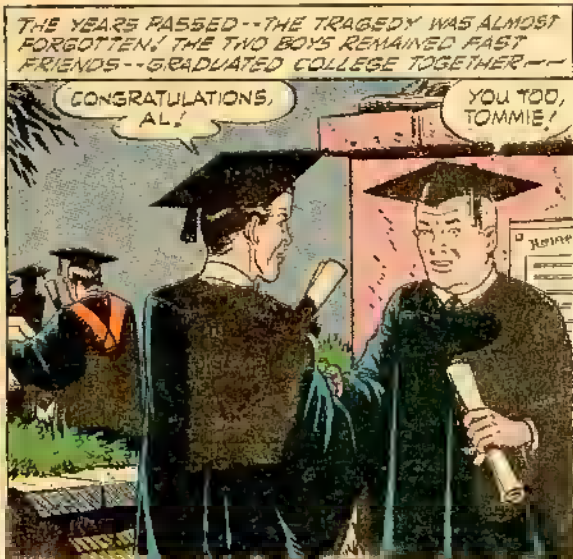


TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE -- BOTH MEN WERE KILLED INSTANTLY! GOT ANY IDEA OF WHAT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT?



WE--WE DON'T KNOW! THEY BOTH LOOKED AROUND AT US--AS IF THEY WERE SEEING SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD--

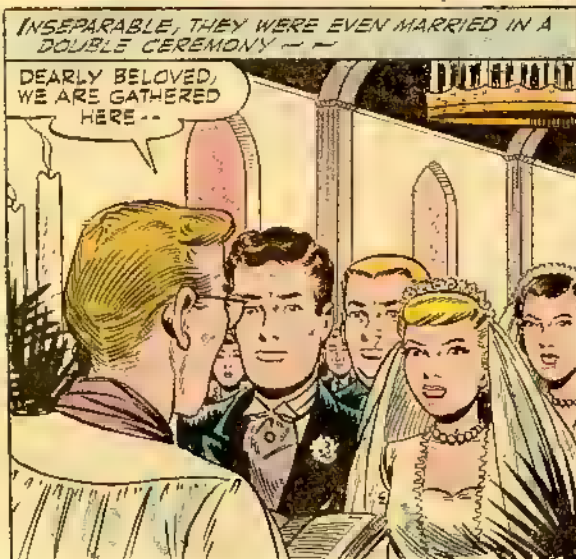
--AND THEN IT HAPPENED!



THE YEARS PASSED--THE TRAGEDY WAS ALMOST FORGOTTEN! THE TWO BOYS REMAINED FAST FRIENDS--GRADUATED COLLEGE TOGETHER--

CONGRATULATIONS, AL!

YOU TOO, TOMMIE!



INSEPARABLE, THEY WERE EVEN MARRIED IN A DOUBLE CEREMONY --

DEARLY BELOVED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE --

TIME WENDED ONWARD, WITH NOTHING TO DISTURB THEIR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP! THEN CAME THE SUMMER WHEN --

YOU'VE BOTH BEEN WORKING HARD AND DESERVE THE KIND OF VACATION YOU REALLY WANT! WE CAN ENJOY OURSELVES AT HOME--WHY DON'T YOU TWO ROUGH IT TOGETHER? A CAMPING TRIP, FOR INSTANCE--

HEAR THAT, ALBERT? FISHING-- THE WOODS--

YEE-OHH! OPEN SPACES, HERE WE COME!



IT WAS A GREAT TRIP -- THEY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME --

THIS SURE IS THE LIFE, HUH? I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO SHAVE UNTIL I GET HOME!

ME NEITHER! CAN YOU IMAGINE THE HOWL THE GIRLS WILL SET UP WHEN THEY SEE US?



TOO SOON THE WEEKS OF "ROUGHING IT" WERE OVER! IT WAS TIME TO RETURN --

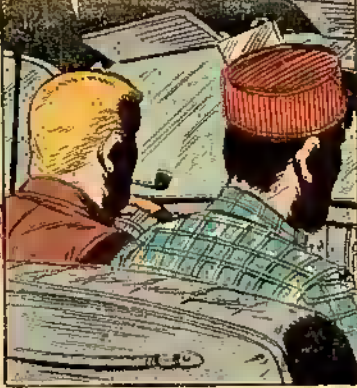
TOO BAD WE'VE GOT TO HEAD FOR HOME! IT SURE WAS A GREAT TRIP, WASN'T IT?

RIGHT! NOTHING BEATS GETTING CLOSE TO NATURE, I ALWAYS SAY!



WAIT'LL THE GIRLS SEE WHAT WE LOOK LIKE -- BOY, WILL THEY RAISE THE ROOF!

UH-HUH -- SAY, WE'RE RUNNING INTO BAD WEATHER! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!



LOOK AT THOSE TWO KIDS OUT IN THIS CLOUDBURST! WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GIVE 'EM A BREAK?

GRAY -- I'LL STOP FOR 'EM!

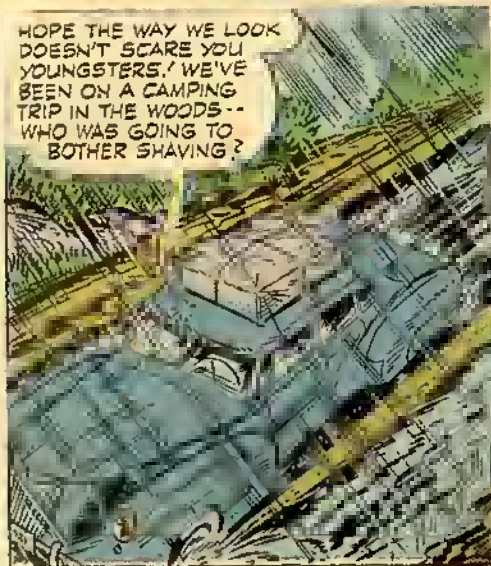


PILE IN, KIDS! NO SENSE IN DROWNING!

GEE -- THANKS! WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D STOP!

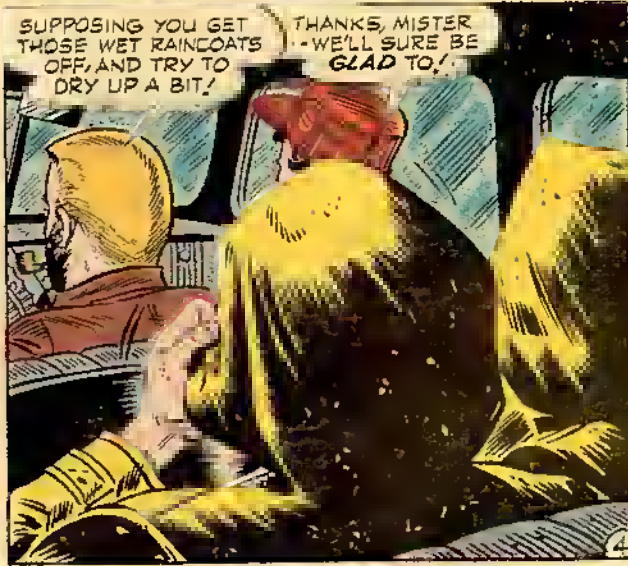


HOPE THE WAY WE LOOK DOESN'T SCARE YOU YOUNGSTERS! WE'VE BEEN ON A CAMPING TRIP IN THE WOODS -- WHO WAS GOING TO BOTHER SHAVING?



SUPPOSING YOU GET THOSE WET RAINCOATS OFF, AND TRY TO DRY UP A BIT!

THANKS, MISTER -- WE'LL SURE BE GLAD TO!



AND THEN IT HAPPENED -- AS IT HAD IN THE YEARS LONG FLED --



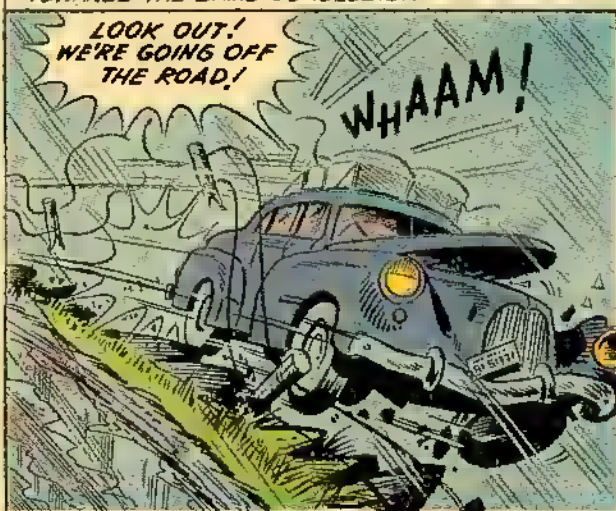
OH, N-NO--
IT CAN'T BE!
AL--LOOK
AT THOSE
KIDS!

HUH..?

HOLY..SMOKE!
WE--WE MUST BE
SEEING
THINGS!

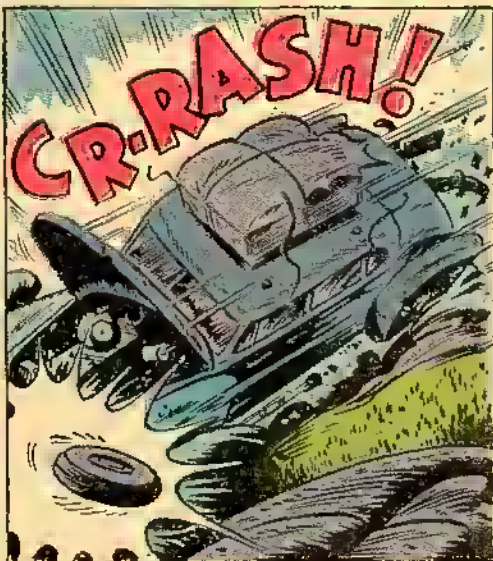


ONCE AGAIN, THE STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES MOVED
TOWARDS THE SAME CONCLUSION --



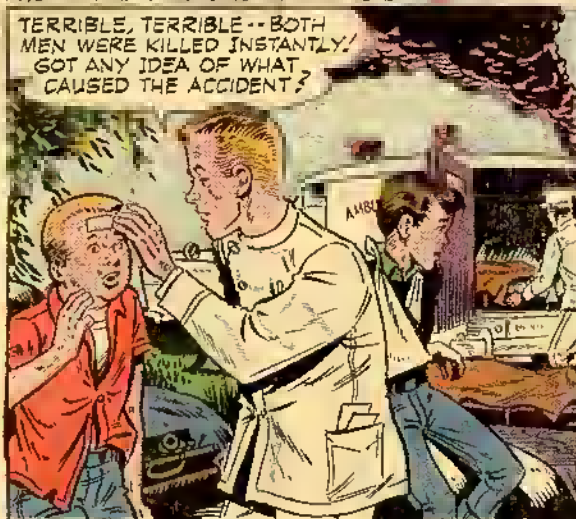
LOOK OUT!
WE'RE GOING OFF
THE ROAD!

WHAAM!



CR-RASH!

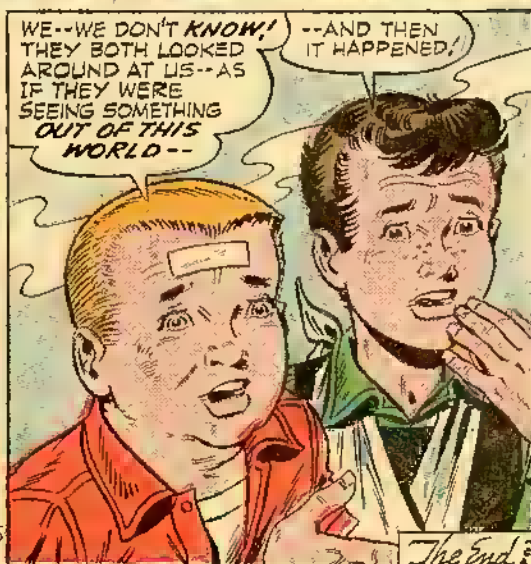
LIKE A CONSTANTLY RECURRING PICTURE-- LIKE A
PHONOGRAPH RECORD WHIRRING ENDLESSLY --



TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE-- BOTH
MEN WERE KILLED INSTANTLY!
GOT ANY IDEA OF WHAT
CAUSED THE ACCIDENT?

WE--WE DON'T KNOW!
THEY BOTH LOOKED
AROUND AT US--AS
IF THEY WERE
SEEING SOMETHING
OUT OF THIS
WORLD--

--AND THEN
IT HAPPENED!

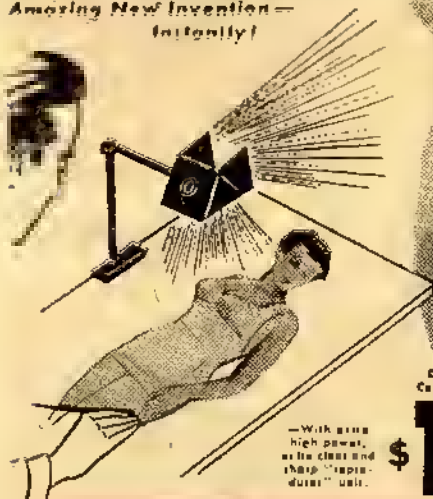


The End?

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DRAW

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Amazing New Invention—
Instantly!



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—With extra
high power,
extra clear and
sharp "repro-
ducer" unit.

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ANY PERSON

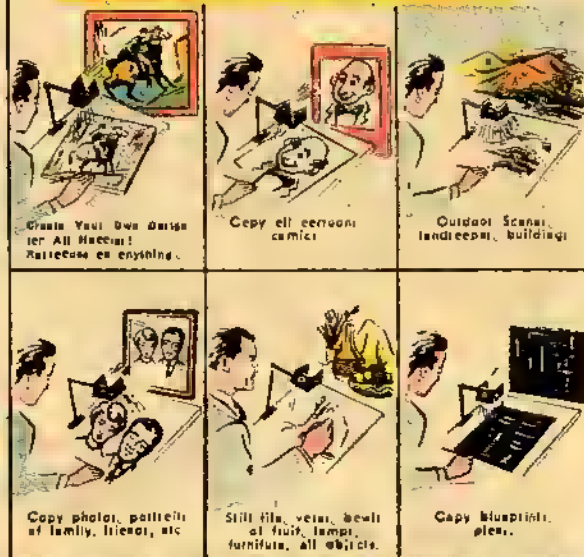
IN

ONE MINUTE

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Friends, Anything From
REAL LIFE—Like An Artist...
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